



NO. 4 | TOMO
TAKEUCHI

WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

WELCOME no. 4 | **TOMO
TAKEUCHI**
TO THE BALLROOM

The background of the entire page is a black and white photograph of an ornate, high-ceilinged interior space, likely a grand hall or opera house. The ceiling is covered in intricate, carved patterns and is adorned with numerous small, glowing lights that create a bokeh effect. The architecture features classical columns and decorative moldings. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and elegance.

Contents

Heat 12

Gaju Akagi

003

Heat 13

Voltage

041

Heat 14

Radiation

077

Heat 15

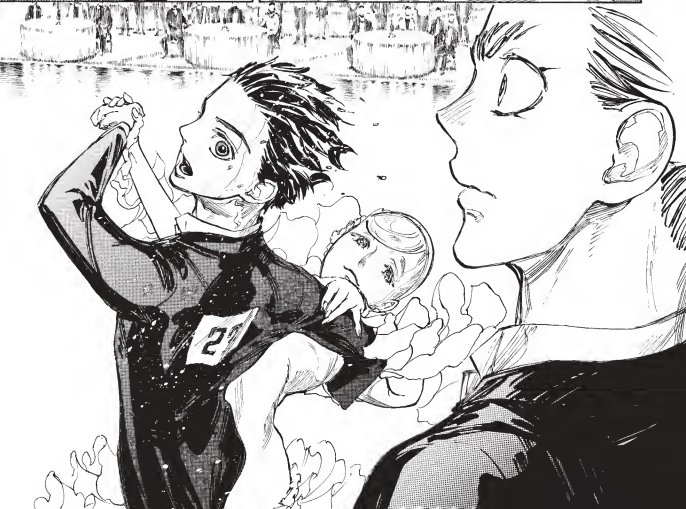
Special Variation

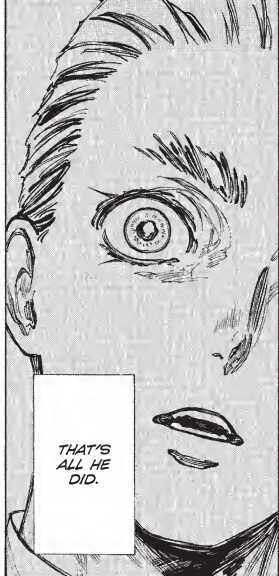
115

Heat 16

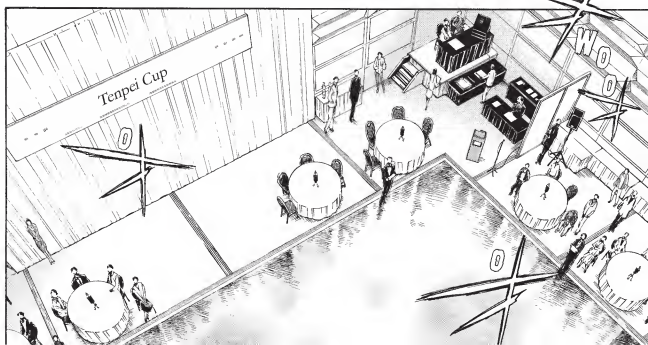
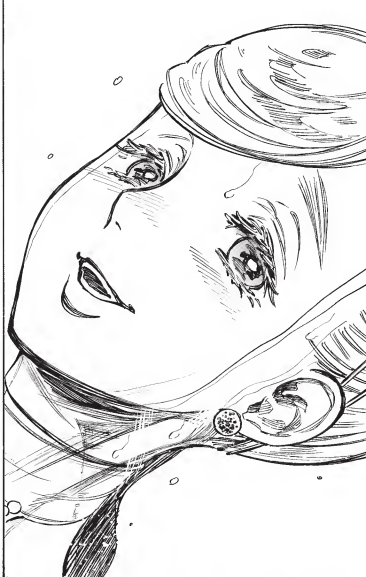
Judgment

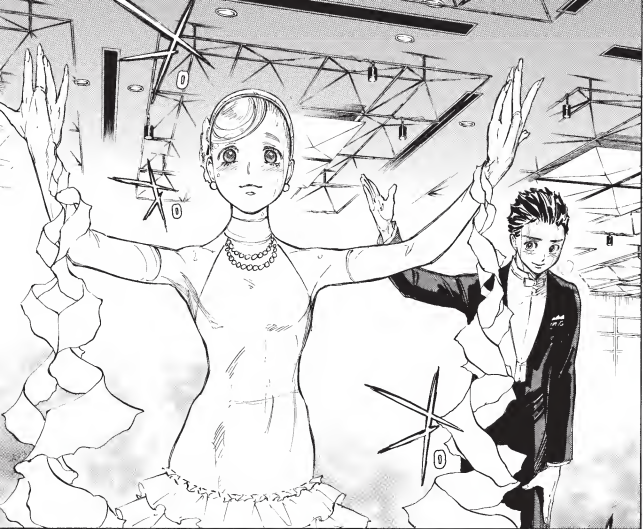
157





THAT'S
ALL HE
DID.

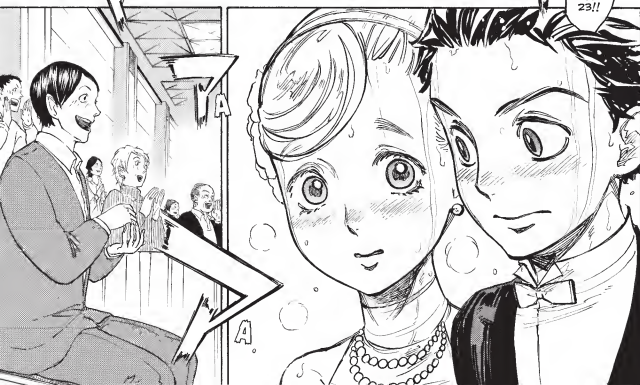
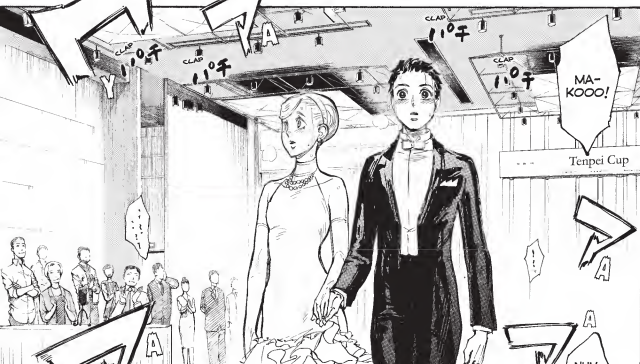
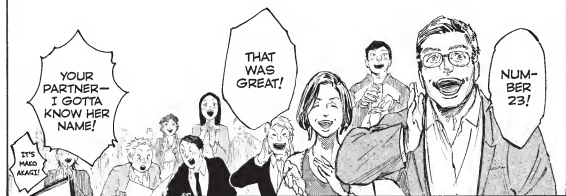


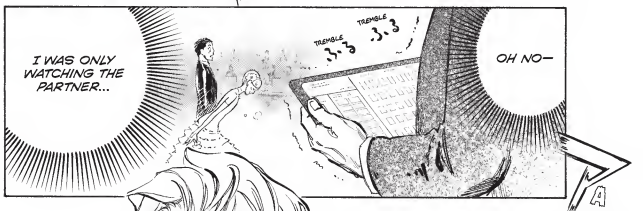


I HOPE I
PULLED
OFF THE
LEAD.

WE
DEFINITELY
WENT ALL-
OUT.





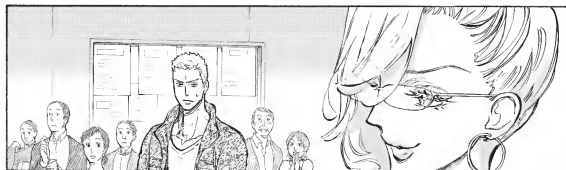




WHAT DOES
THAT SAY
ABOUT THE
LEADER?!



BUT IF
SO—



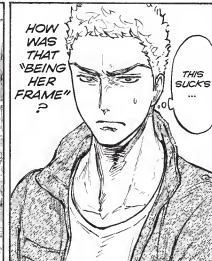
...THAT
YOU LET
YOUR OWN
MOVEMENTS
GET
SCREWED
UP!

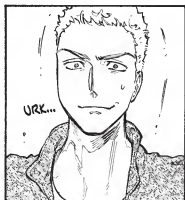
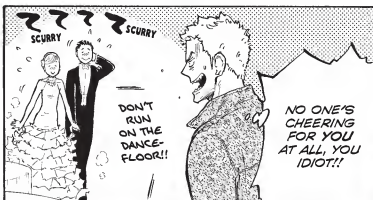
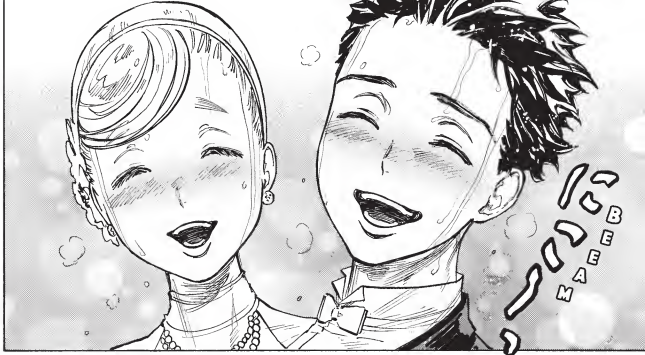
STEWART

THAT LEAD
WAS SO
TOTALLY
CENTERED
AROUND
YOUR
PARTNER...

HOW
WAS
THAT
"BEING
HER
FRAME"
?

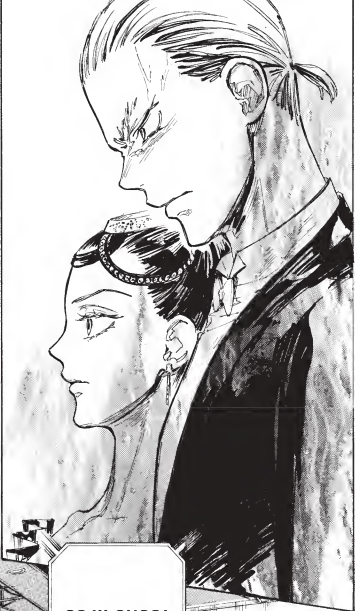
THIS
SUCKS
...







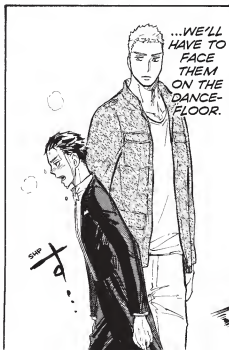
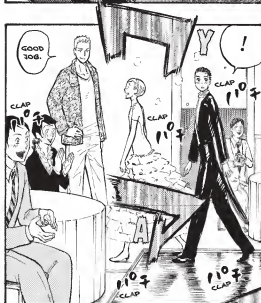
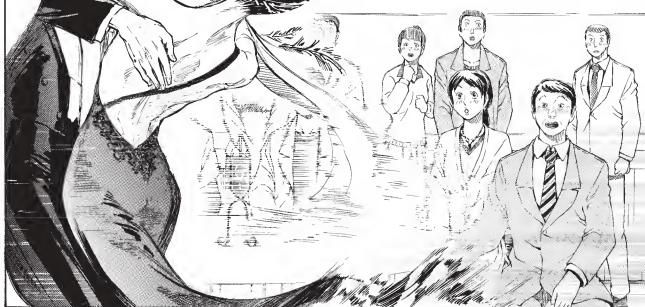
THE THIRD
TEAM: ENTRY
NUMBER 15.



GAJU AKAGI
AND SHIZUKU
HANAOKA.



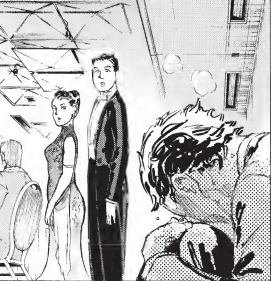




...WE'LL
HAVE TO
FACE
THEM
ON THE
DANCE-
FLOOR.

ONCE
THE
FOUR
OTHER
TEAMS
FINISH
THEIR
SOLOS...





COME ON, KID. FINALISTS CAN'T BE SITTING ON THE FLOOR. BE POLITE, EVEN IF THE JUDGES AREN'T WATCHING YOU.



I GOTTA REST AS MUCH AS I CAN RIGHT NOW.

I'M GONNA BE STUCK OUT ON THE FLOOR FOR THE TFQ WITH ALL THE OTHER TEAMS.

*TFQ: TANGO, FOXTROT, QUICKSTEP



YOU WANT A TRICK TO WIN THE WALTZ?

HE TOLD ME TO GO "SMOOTH," LIKE A CURRENT ROLLING DOWN A RIVER," AND "LIKE I'M GLIDING OVER THE FLOOR," BUT—

HEY, GET YOUR HEAD UP.

KEEP YOUR CORE STRAIGHT— LIKE THERE'S A BOARD ON YOUR BACK.

THROW IN A BIG SWING AND DANCE DYNAMICALLY.

CLACK

ROLL FROM YOUR HEEL TO YOUR TOE.

ぐに
FLEX



FIRST YOU HAVE TO CATCH THE FLOOR WITH THE BALL OF YOUR FOOT.

POIK

SKWIK

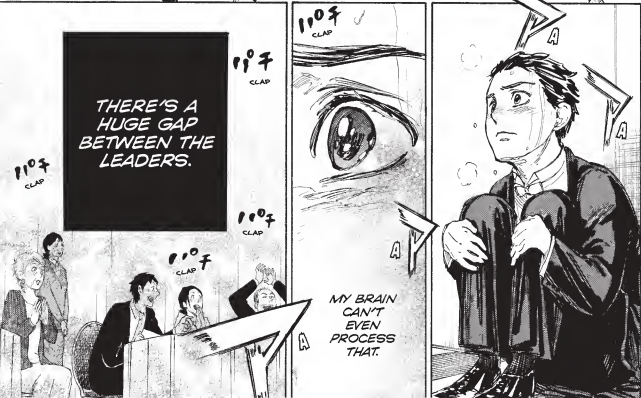
THE STEP COMES FROM YOUR HIPS, WITH A DEEP, LOW STRIDE.

KEEP YOUR KNEES LOOSE.



...ARE
THE
BEAUTY
OF THE
WALTZ.

THOSE
BIG
SWINGS...

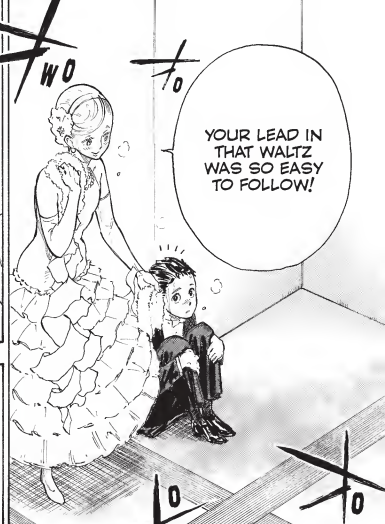


THERE'S A
HUGE GAP
BETWEEN THE
LEADERS.

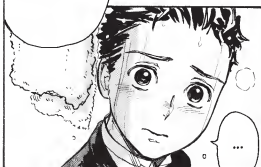
MY BRAIN
CAN'T
EVEN
PROCESS
THAT.



WE'LL
TAKE THAT
ENERGY
INTO
ALL THE
STYLES!



YOUR LEAD IN
THAT WALTZ
WAS SO EASY
TO FOLLOW!



WHEN DID
YOU AND
GAJU-
KUN START
DANCING?



...
THANKS



BUT
I'VE BEEN
DANCING
WITH MY
BROTHER
FOR AS
LONG
AS I CAN
REMEMBER,
SO I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW.

I WAS
PROBABLY
FOUR.



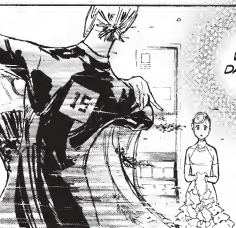
BY THE
WAY...



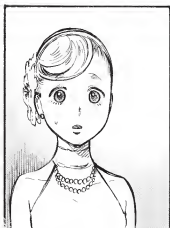
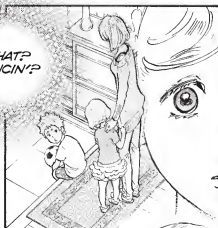
HE SAID
YOU WERE
"CONSTANTLY
PESTERIN'"
HIM.



WEREN'T
YOU THE
ONE WHO
GOT GAJU
INTO IT?



WHAT?
DANCIN'?



NO WAY
YER
GETTIN'
ME TO DO
THAT!!

THAT
GIRLY
DRESS-
UP
GAME?



うお
A
A
A

YOU
TOTALLY
RIPPED IT,
GAJU!!

THROW
IT HOME!
THROW IT
HOME!

"KICKIT"
(A BALL GAME MORE
TYPICALLY KNOWN AS
"KICKBALL")

HOW YOU
LIKE THAT,
BLOCK 4!

お
A

お
H
お
A



MURR...

FIDGET
もい



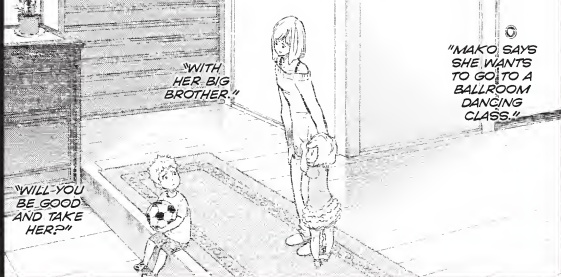
YER LITTLE
SISTER'S
BACK
AGAIN.



FIDGET
もい



HEY
GAJU!
LOOK
OVER
THERE.



"WITH
HER BIG
BROTHER."

"MAKO SAYS
SHE WANTS
TO GO TO A
BALLROOM
DANCING
CLASS."

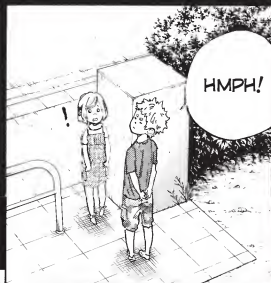
"WILL YOU
BE GOOD
AND TAKE
HER?"



IF I'M
ALWAYS
HOLDIN'
HANDS WITH
A GIRL,
EVERYONE'LL
MAKE FUN
OF ME.



BUT I'M
A BOY.



HMPH!

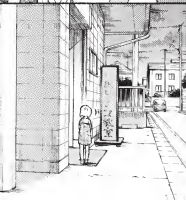


SO
ANYWAY...

HA
HA
HA

GRUMBLE
ぐぐぐ
ぐぐぐ

"SIDES, IF
SHE WANTS
ME TO DO
SOMETHIN',
SHE OUGHTA
ASK ME."



WHY
WOULD
I WANNA
DANCE?!

LET'S GET HOME!

WE'RE NOT S'POSED TO GO OFF ON OUR OWN THIS LATE, Y'KNOW!

OH!



HAKAMADA
DANCE
SCHOOL



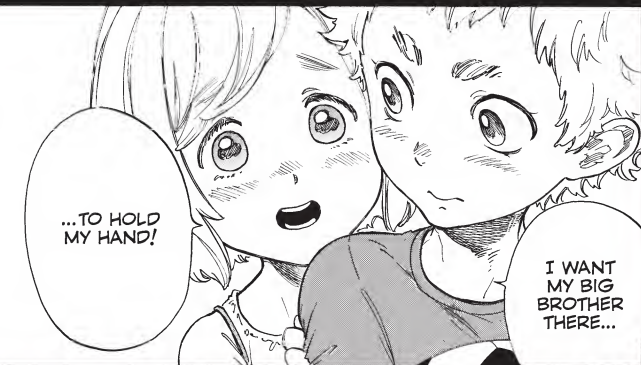
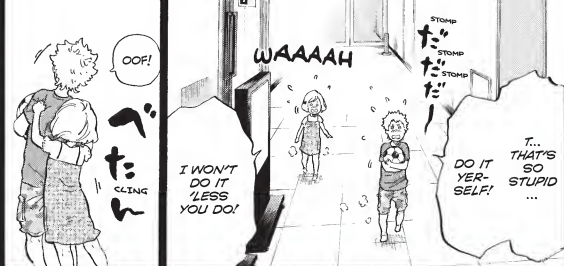
WHAT'RE YA LOOKIN' AT...?

どきどき
SDJUMP
どきどき

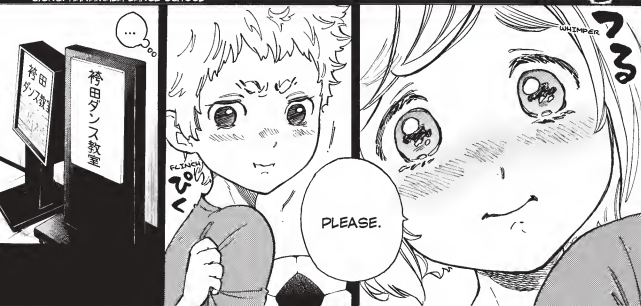
Y'WANNA DO THAT WITH ME?

THEY'RE DANCIN' SO PRETTY!
LOOKIT HER SKIRT TWIRL!

...



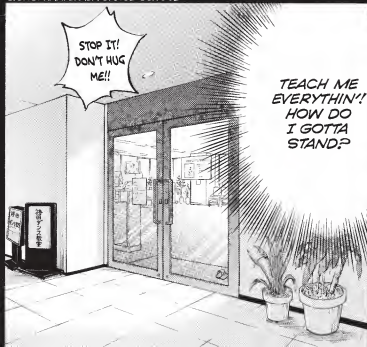
SIGNS: HAKAMADA DANCE SCHOOL

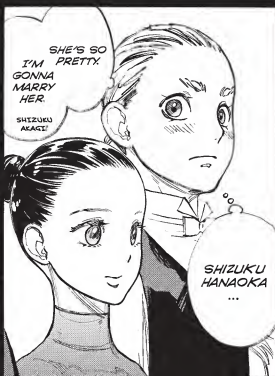
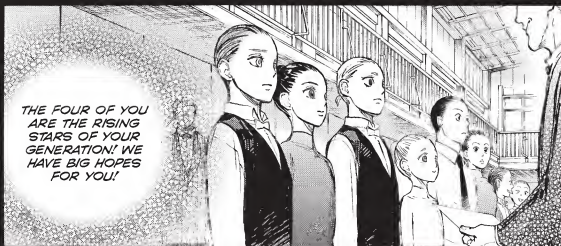
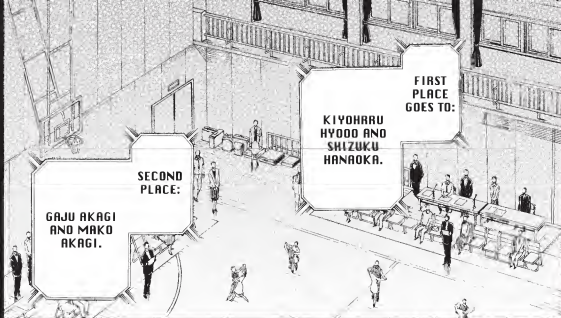


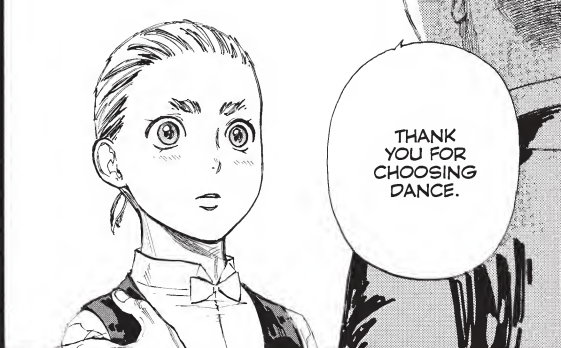




SIGNS: HAKAMADA DANCE SCHOOL







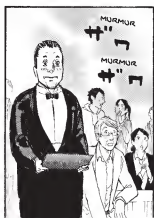
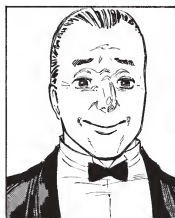
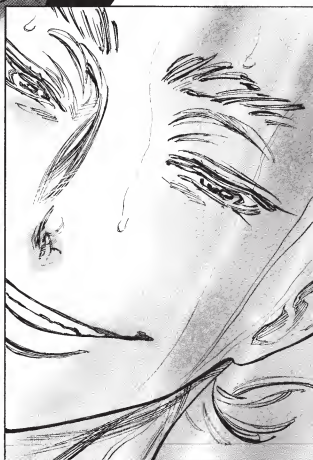
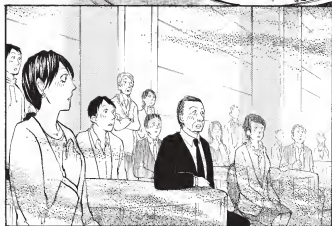
THANK
YOU FOR
CHOOSING
DANCE.



IT WAS
AT THIS
MOMENT
THAT MY
FATE WAS
DECIDED.



EVER SINCE
WE STARTED
TEN YEARS
AGO, I'VE
DANCED WITH
MAKO...





I'VE
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO PAIR
UP WITH
SHIZUKU.



CRAZY
HOW
EASY IT
IS TO
DANCE
WITH
HER!

NO
SURPRISE...
SHIZUKU'S
TEARIN'
THROUGH
HER
FOLLOW.
SHE'S
BRINGIN'
IT.

THROB
" < < < " THROB



THESE
TWO
CLEARLY
HAVE AN
ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT
LEVEL
OF TALENT
THAN THE
REST.

THEY
EXECUTED
THE
STANDING
SPIN WITH
A CLEAN
AXIS...



SHE'S
THE IDEAL
PARTNER

....!





I CAN
MAKE MY
MOVES AS
HUGE AS I
WANT!

CRAP

MY
SMILE'S
GETTIN'
CREEPY.

NOT WITH
MAKO...!

I NEVER
GOT TO
DANCE
A WALTZ
LIKE THIS
BEFORE.

DID YOU
SEE THE
AKAGI
TEAM?
THAT GIRL
IS TOTALLY
DRAGGING
HER
BROTHER'S
LEAD DOWN.

DRINK
SOME
MILK!

KA-
CHAK

EEK!

MAKO

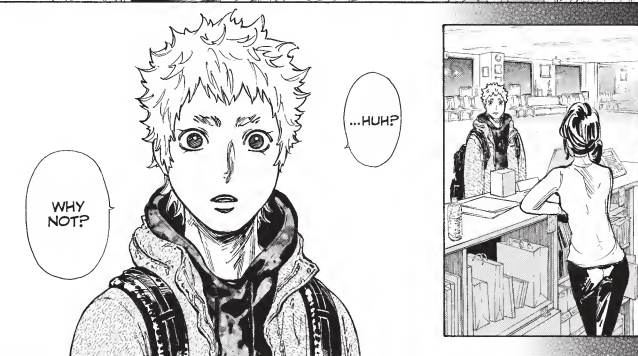
SHE'S
GOT NO
CLUE
HOW TO
MOVE,
EITHER.

WE AIN'T
A WELL-
BALANCED
COUPLE.
MAKO'S
SO TINY.



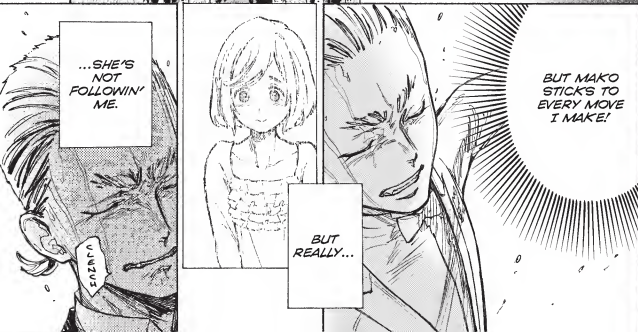
YOU DON'T
WANT TO KEEP
DANCING WITH
YOUR SISTER
FOREVER, DO
YOU?

YOU
SHOULD
THINK
ABOUT
FINDING
A NEW
PARTNER.



WHY
NOT?

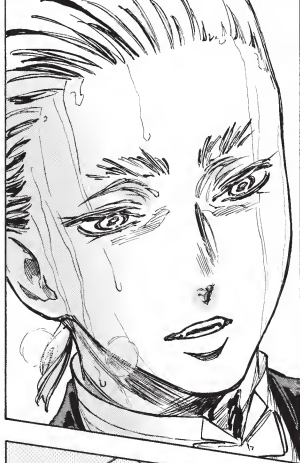
...HUHP



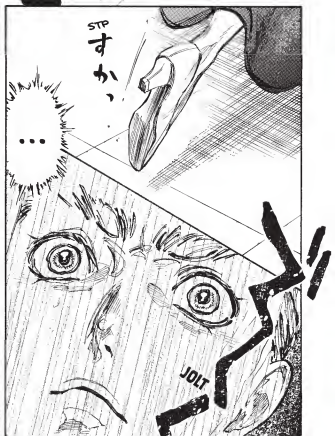
...SHE'S
NOT
FOLLOWIN'
ME.

BUT
REALLY...

BUT MAKO
STICKS TO
EVERY MOVE
I MAKE!









IT'S
OUT OF
SYNC...



A LEADER
CAN'T DO
MUCH IF
HE SHUTS
OFF HIS
PARTNER'S
ROUTE.
IDIOT.



WHAT
HAPPENED
WITH
SHIZUKU'S
TIMING?!

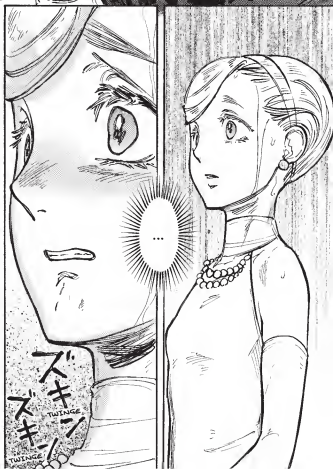
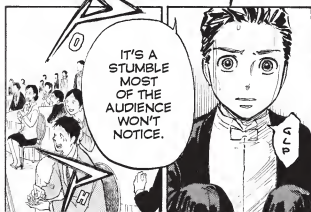
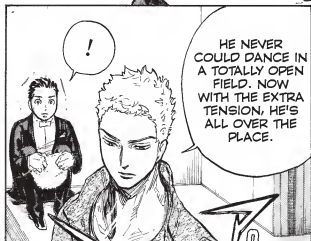


NO...

HOW DID I
RUN OUT
OF SPACE
ON THE
FLOOR?!



**I'M
MESSIN'
UP THE
LEAD!**





**BUT THE
JUDGES
SAW IT.**

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM



OUR
STRIDES
AIN'T
MATCHIN'
UP.

THE
TIMING'S
FALLIN'
APART!

I CAN'T
GET SET
BACK
UP!!

Tenpei Cup

Heat 13
Voltage





I HAD
THE BEST
PARTNER
IN THE
WORLD, BUT
I COULDN'T
FOCUS ON
THE DANCE.

THAT WAS
AWFUL.

THE
FOURTH
TEAM:

ENTRY
NUMBER
41.

YOU NEVER
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN IN
COMPETITION.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
GAJU-SAN
WOULD FALL
APART IN
THE FINALS.

15



WOAH!
LAME!!

URK!

HEY—

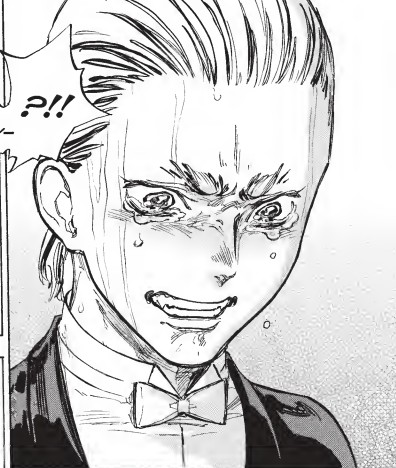
?!!

MMGR



M'SORRY,
SHIZUKU.

H K K



WHO
FRIGGIN'
ASKED
YOU?

(PLEASE LEAVE
ME ALONE.)

I'M
NOTHING
A BATTERED
WRE.

WHERE
ARE
THOSE
NOTES
EVEN
COMING
FROM?

QUIT IT
WITH THAT
SNUFFLIN'
AND
CHOKIN'!

NNGH

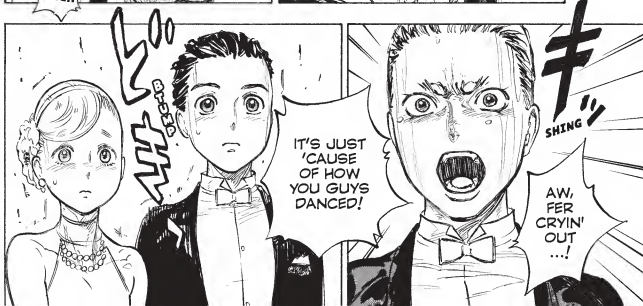


HNG-
KK!

I-IT'S OKAY,
GAJU-KUN!

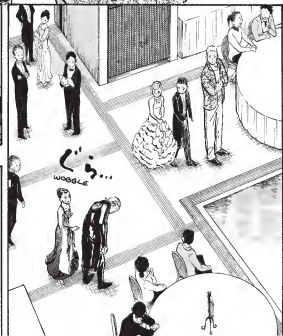
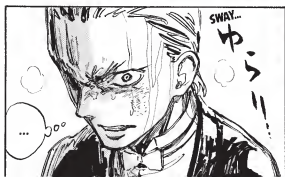
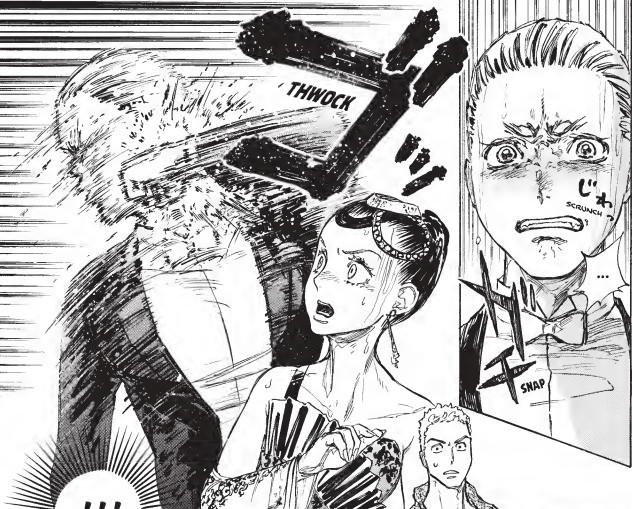
NNGH

I JUST
GOT SO
WORKED
UP. I
DUNNO.



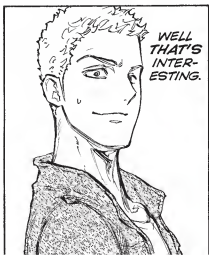
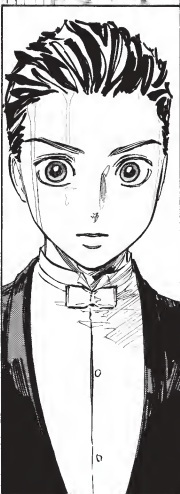
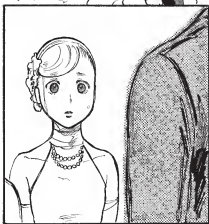
IT'S JUST
'CAUSE
OF HOW
YOU GUYS
DANCED!

AW,
FER
CRYIN'
OUT
...!

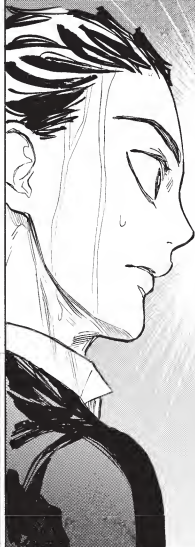
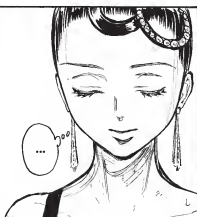
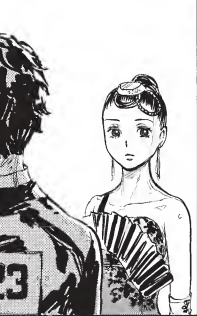




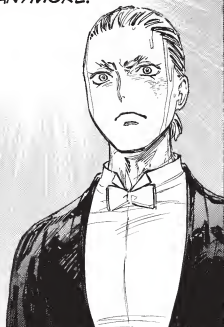
**YOU
BETTER
GET
READY
TO LOSE!
HARD!**



**WELL
THAT'S
INTER-
ESTING.**



I CAN'T TELL
WHICH ONE'S
THE UPSTART
ANYMORE!



...BUT WE'VE
REHEARSED
THE OTHER
THREE
STYLES, SO
IF WE FOCUS
WHEN WE'RE
ON STAGE...

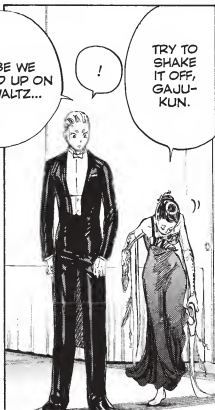
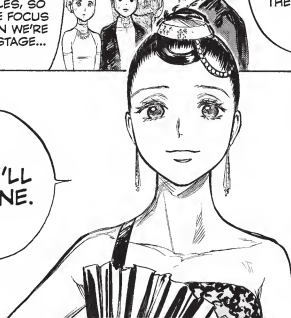


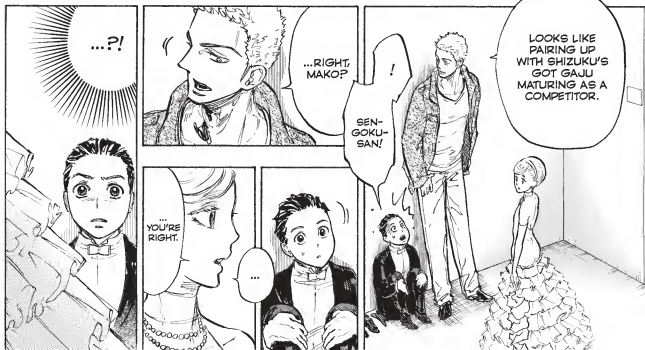
MAYBE WE
MESSED UP ON
THE WALTZ...

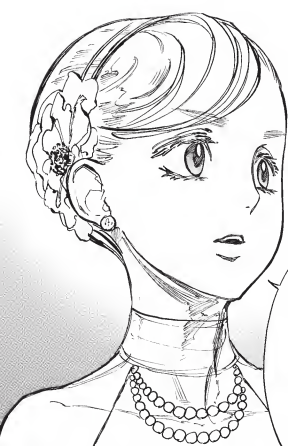
!

TRY TO
SHAKE
IT OFF,
GAJU-
KUN.

...WE'LL
BE FINE.







I WANT
TO WIN THIS
CONTEST
AND TEAM
BACK UP
WITH HIM.



BUT...IF I
GET THE
CHANCE...



...THERE'S
SO MUCH
I WANT
TO GIVE
BACK TO MY
BROTHER.



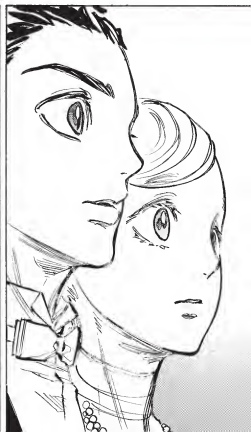
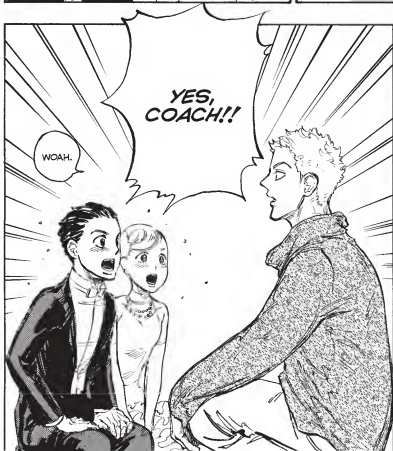
I'M GONNA
PUMP YOU
BACK UP
BEFORE THE
GROUP EVENT
STARTS.

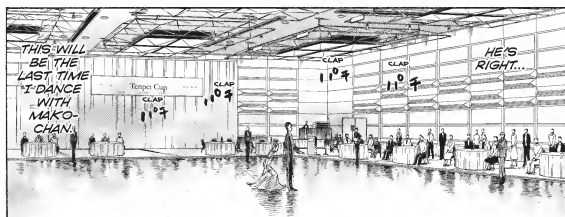
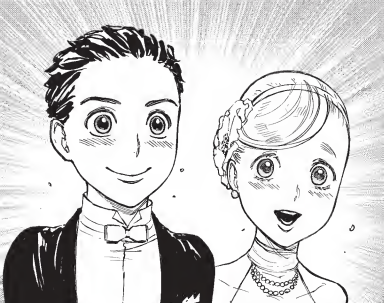
OKAY,
PICK YOUR-
SELF
UP!



...EVERY
SINGLE
SONG IS
YOUR-LAST
DANCE AS A
COUPLE.

NOW
LISTEN
UP-FROM
HERE ON
OUT!!

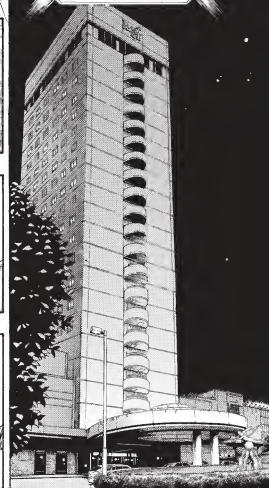




THE
TANGO!

THE
SECOND
STYLE
WILL
BE:

WE WILL
NOW BEGIN
THE GROUP
EVENT OF
THE FINAL
ROUND.





GIVE IT
FULL
POWER.

STOMACH

CLAMP

YA

A

A

WIDE
OPEN.

15

AH





GAJU-KUN
SEEMS TO
BE HAVING
FUN.

I SUPPOSE
TANGO
IS HIS
STRONGEST
STYLE,
AFTER ALL.

TREMBLE

SHIVER

TENACIOUS...

WILD...

PASSIONATE...

THE
TANGO
IS
FIERY
...

★
CHAPTER

WOW, 15
IS REALLY
INTENSE—
HE'S
REALLY
GOING
FOR IT.

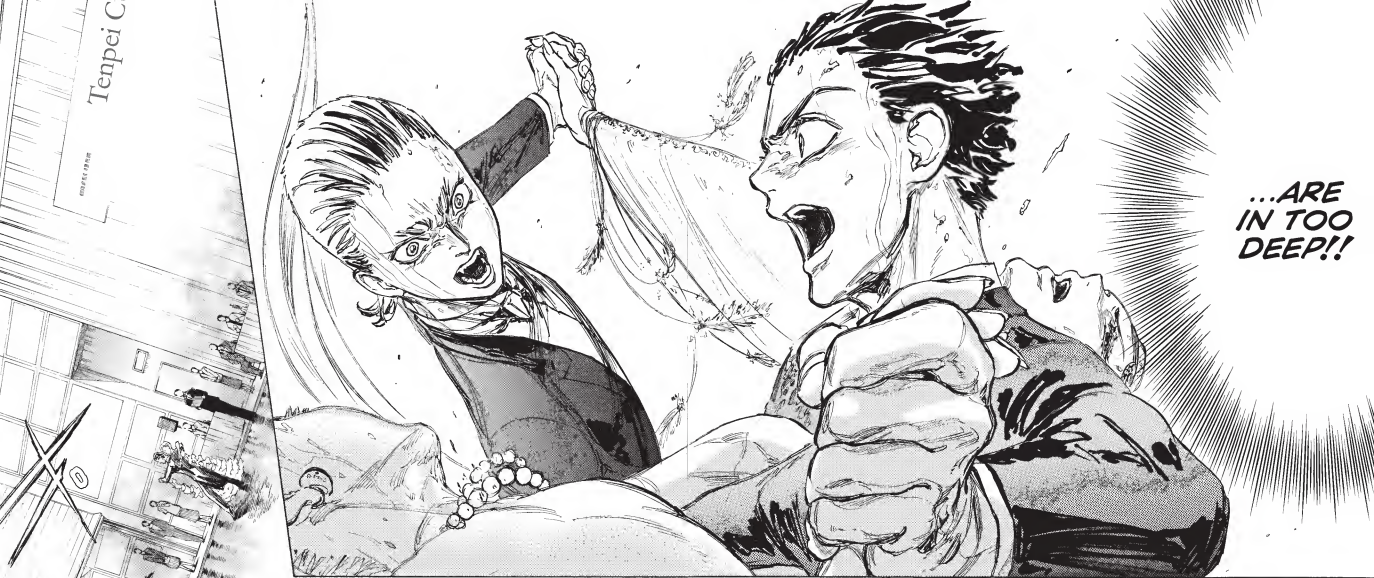
★
CHAPTER

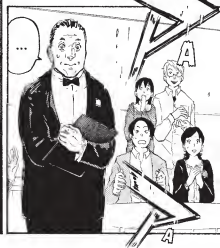
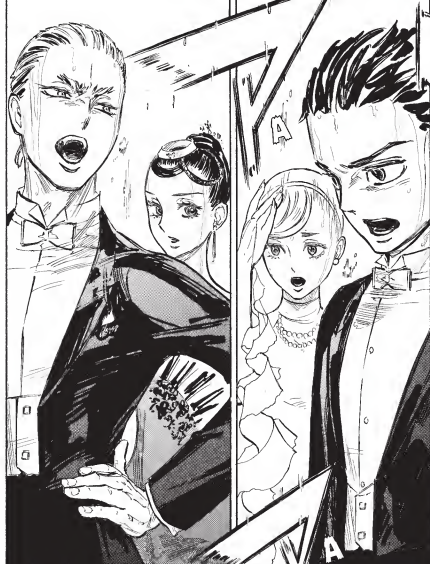
THE BOY
WEARING 23
LOOK'S SO
DRIVEN.

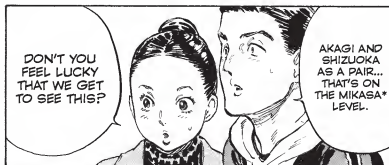
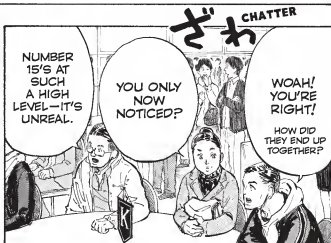
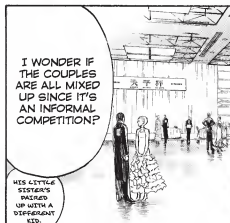
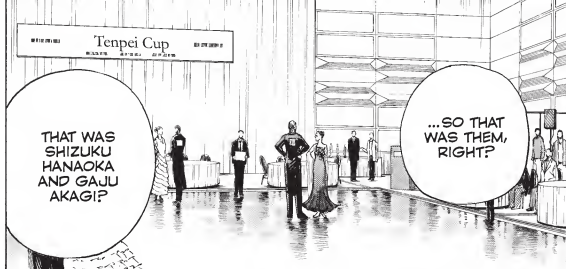
"INTENSE,"
"DRIVEN."
THERE'S NO
DIFFERENCE



YOU
KIDS...

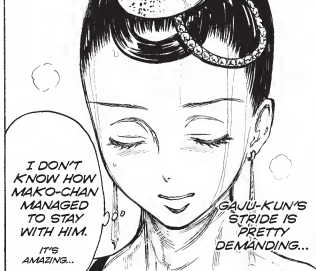


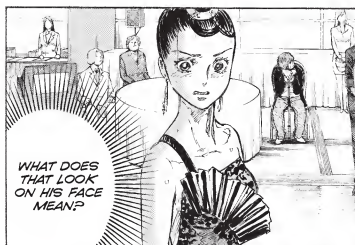
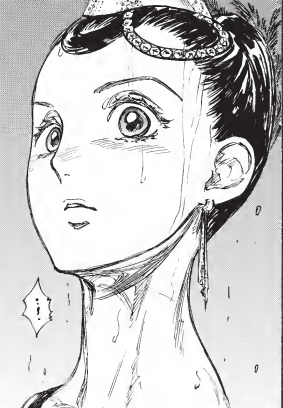




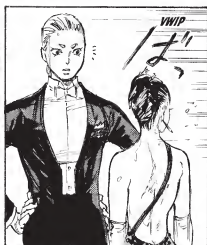
*THE MIKASANOMIYA CUP IS ONLY OPEN TO SEEDDED COMPETITORS AND A SELECT GROUP CHOSEN BY SUBMITTING THEIR SCORES FOR THE YEAR, OR TO ENTRANTS EARNING TOP MARKS IN A SELECTION COMPETITION.





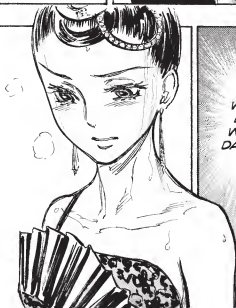


WHAT DOES
THAT LOOK
ON HIS FACE
MEAN?

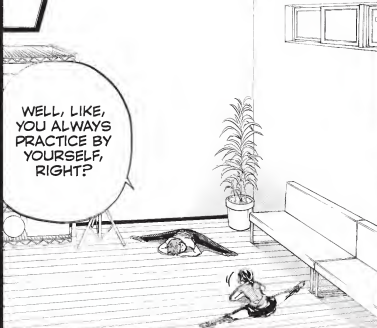


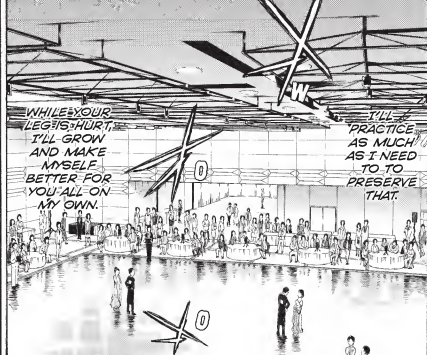
...THAT YOU
DIDN'T VIEW
ME AS YOUR
PARTNER.

KIYOHARU—
BACK IN
JUNIORS
YOU TOLD
ME...



WAS HE
BORED
WITH MY
DANCE...?!





...THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US SHOWED AGAIN.



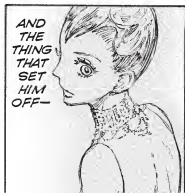
AT THE MIKASA...



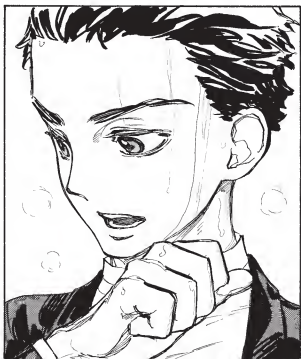
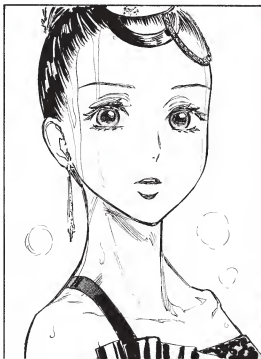
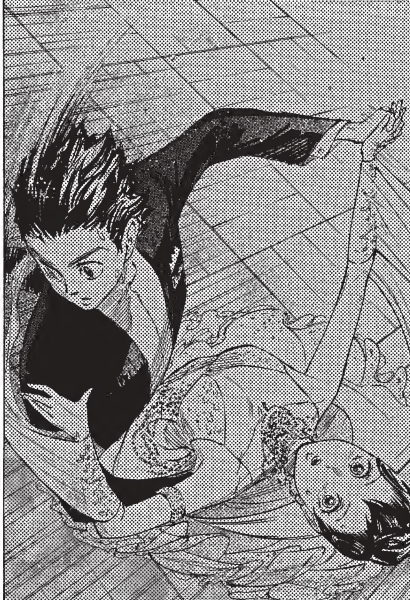
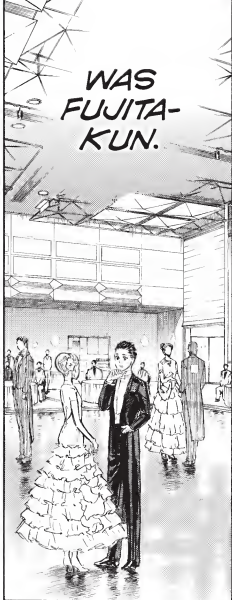
KIYOHARU HAD HIS EYES ON A WORLD ONE STEP AHEAD.

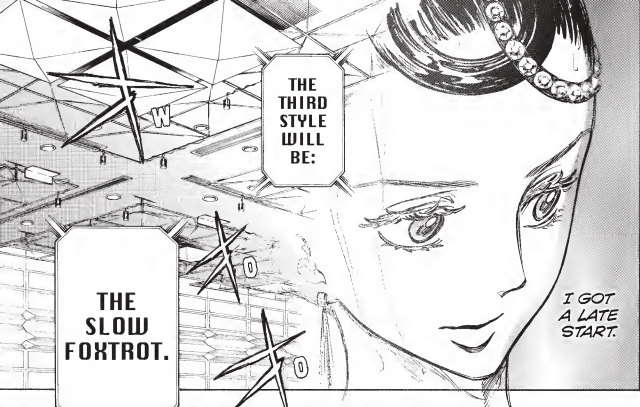


AND THE THING THAT SET HIM OFF—



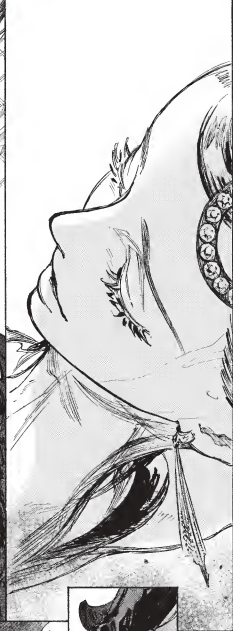
WAS
FUJITA-
KUN.







THE SLOW
FOXTROT—



MY
STEPS
LAND,
THEN
SLOWLY...



...FOR HIGH-
LIGHTING
EVERY TINY
FLAW IN A
DANCER'S
GRASP OF THE FUNDAMENTALS.



THERE
IT IS...

...RELEASE.

RELEASE

THE
SMOOTH,
EASY
SENSE OF
BALANCE
WHEN THEY
SHIFT
THEIR
WEIGHT...

THAT'S
NOT
COMING
FROM
GAUL
KUNG...

NOW THIS
IS A SLOW
FOXTROT...

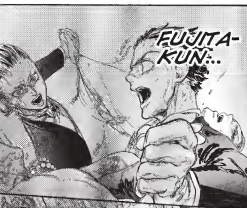
...AS SHE
DANCES IN
SUPPORT OF
HER MAN.

SHE'S
TERRIFYING.

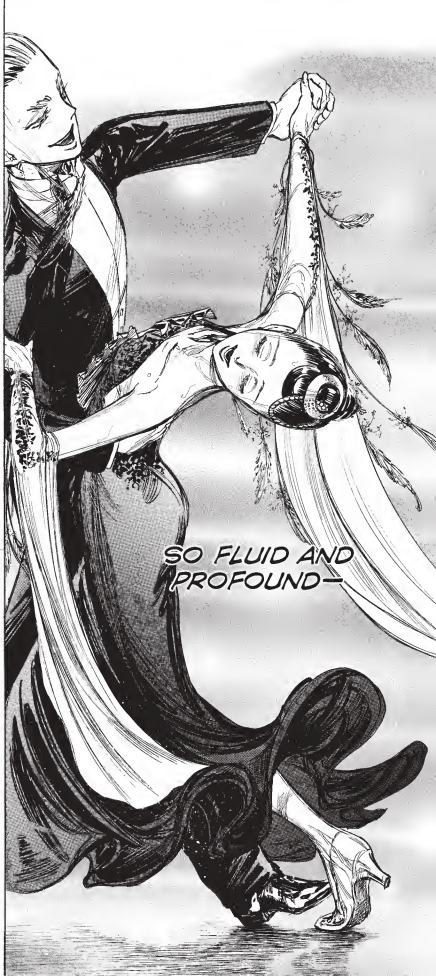
AND WHAT A
ROMANTIC
EXPRESSION SHE
WEARS...



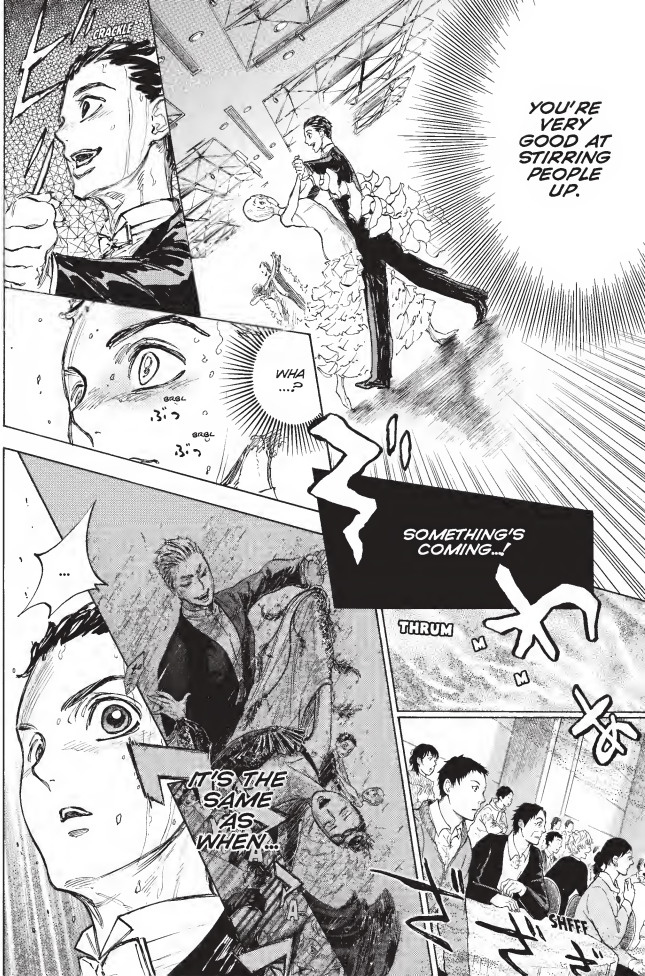
ASTOUNDING
THAT THE
CHARACTER
OF A SINGLE
STYLE CAN
BE BROUGHT
TO SUCH A
LEVEL.



...I'LL
GIVE
YOU ONE
THING.



SO FLUID AND
PROFOUND—



CRACKLE

YOU'RE
VERY
GOOD AT
STIRRING
PEOPLE
UP.

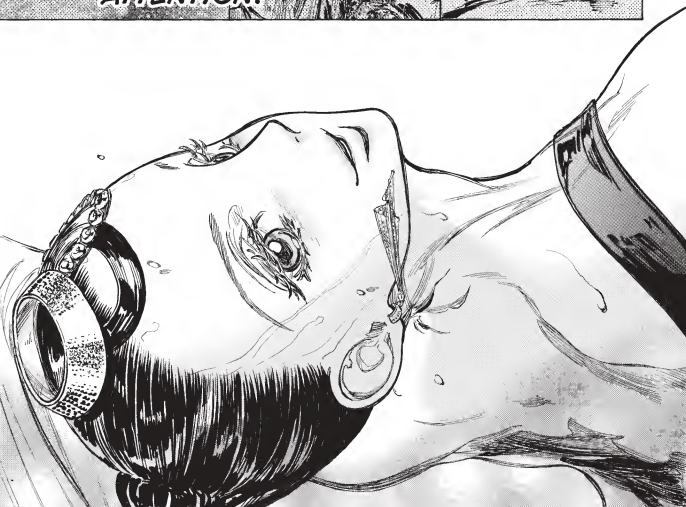
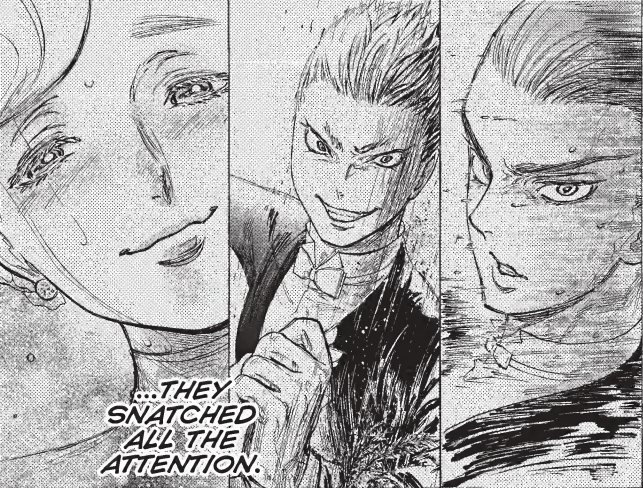
WHA
...?

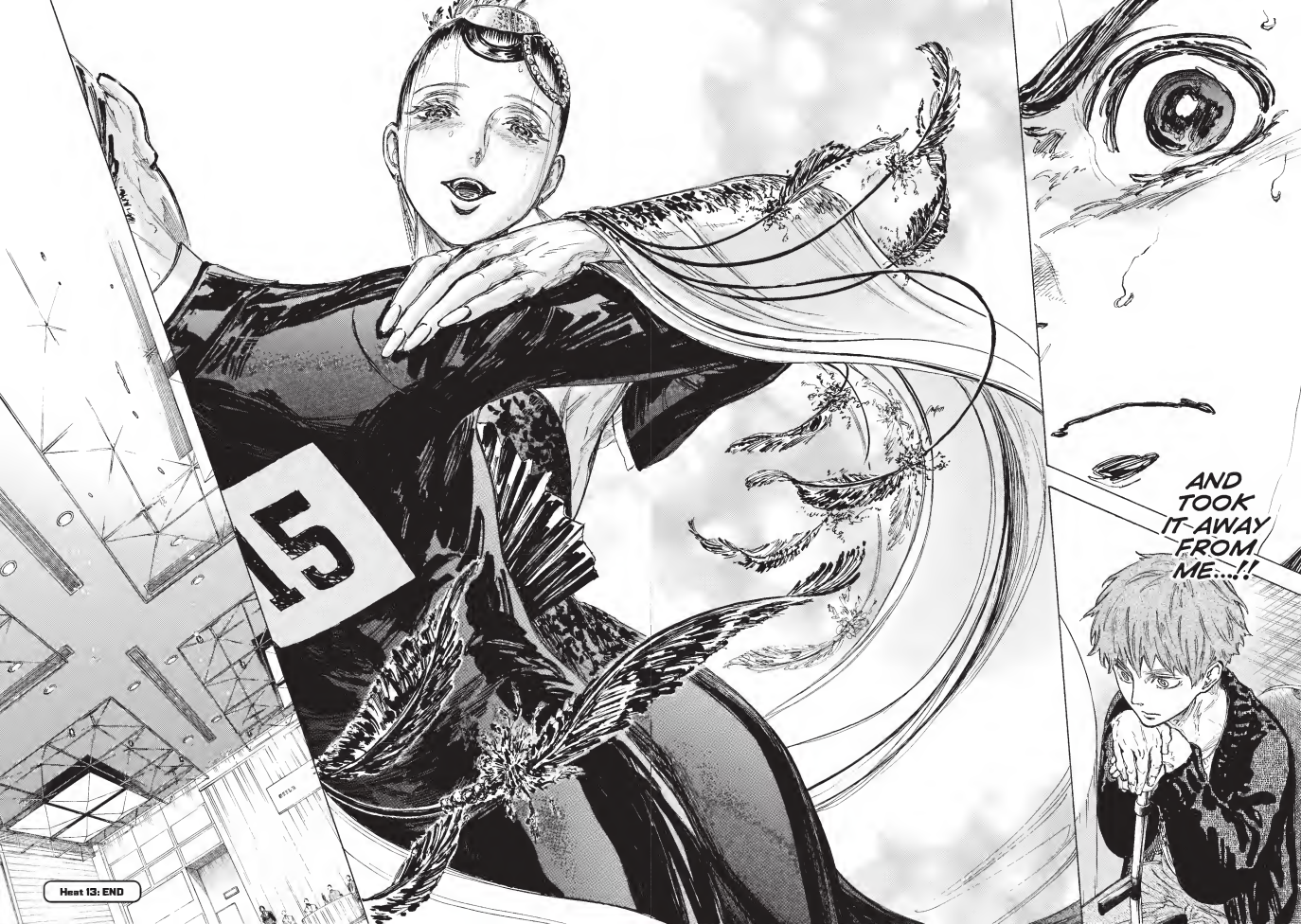
SOMETHING'S
COMING...!

THURM

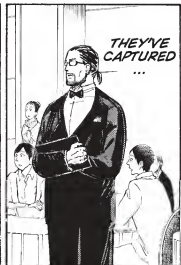
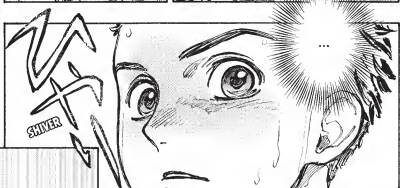
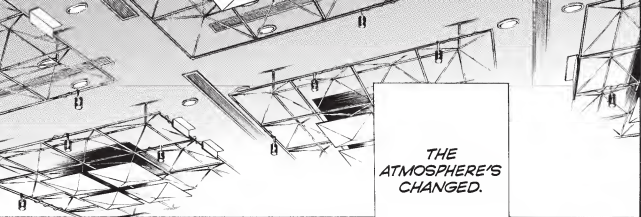
IT'S THE
SAME
AS
WHEN...

SHIFF



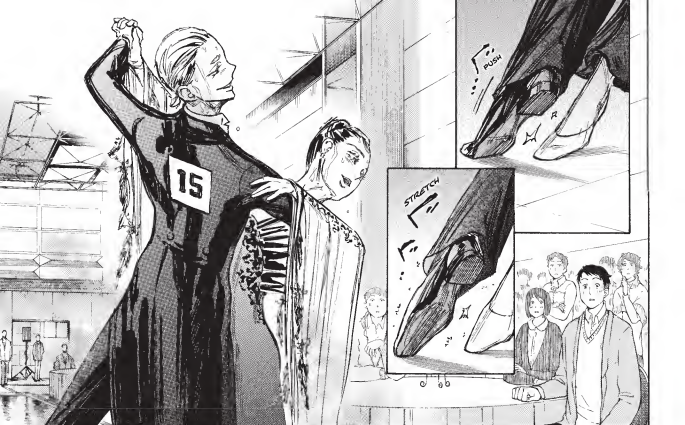


AND
TOOK
IT AWAY
FROM
ME...!!



Heat 14
Radiation





PLENTY OF
DANCERS
DO IT
POORLY.

"CLEAN
LINES AND
A SMOOTH,
FLUID
BEAUTY"
ARE THE
HALLMARKS
OF THE
SLOW
FOXTROT.

GAJU AND
SHIZUKU,
THOUGH...



THEY'RE
NOT
AMATEUR
LEVEL
COMPETITORS.

NUMBER
15'S
SUR-
PRISED
ME...



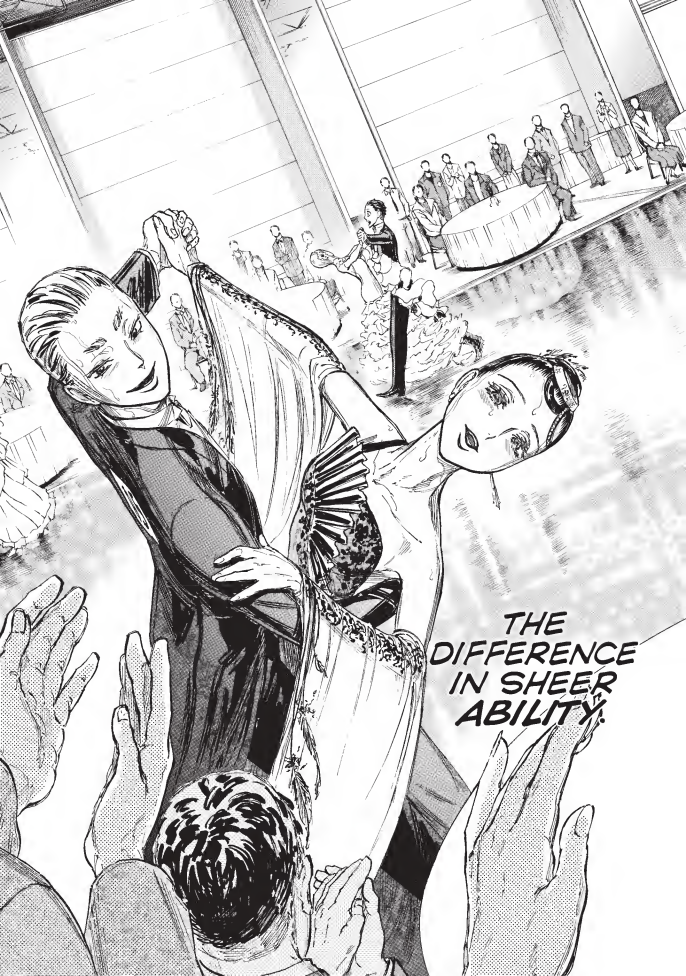


THE
DIFFERENCE
OF
EXPERIENCE.

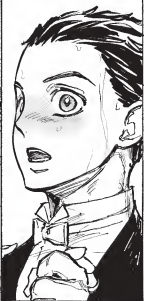
NOW HE'S
REALIZING.

THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
VARIATIONS
AND THE
BASIC.

THEY'RE
EXPERTS.
THEY'RE
USED TO
COMPETI-
TIONS.



THE
DIFFERENCE
IN SHEER
ABILITY.



THAT
GIRL IS
WRINGING
EVERY
LAST
DROP OF
POTENTIAL
OUT
OF HER
LEADER.





SHE WON
THIS THING
SINGLE-
HANDED!

CLAP

110

7

THERE'S
SO MUCH
APPLAUSE...

CLAP

110

7

CLAP

110

7

CLAP

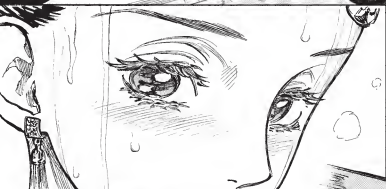
110

7

IF SHE
BEATS
MAKO-
CHAN
IN THIS
DUEL OF
PARTNERS...

DOES
HANAOKA-
SAN UNDER-
STAND HER
POSITION?!

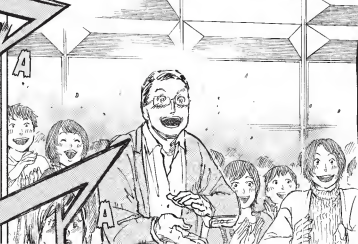
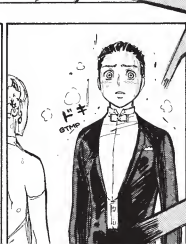
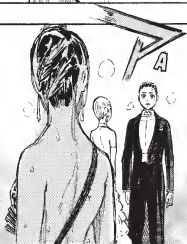
NOT
VERY NICE
OF YOU,
SHIZUKU...

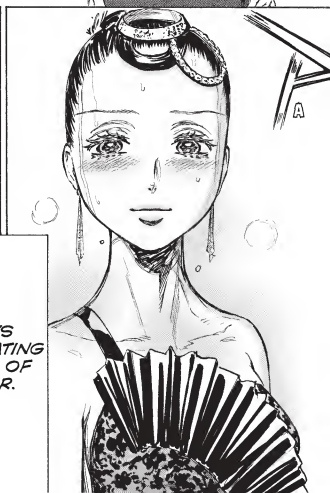
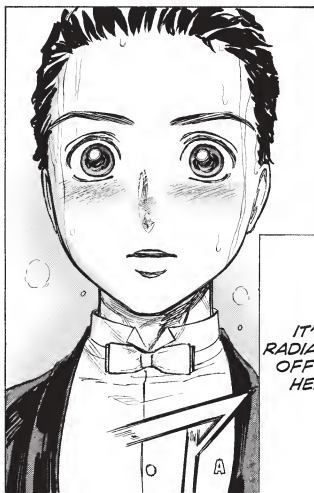
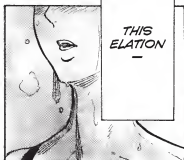


*I COULD
BEAT
SOMEONE
LIKE
HER...P*

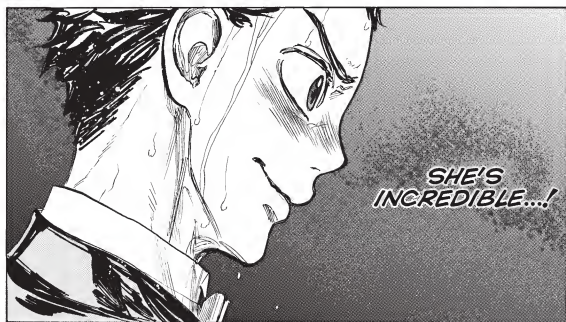
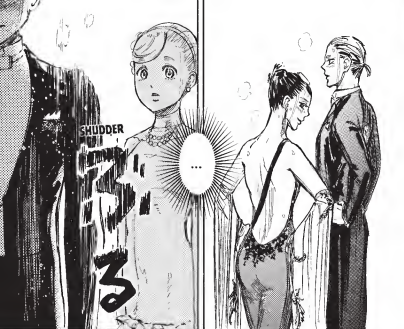


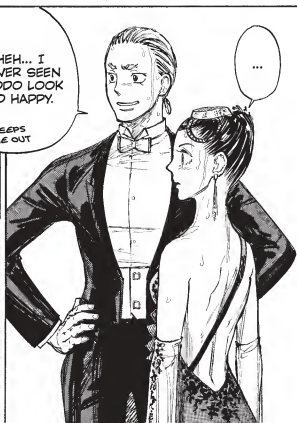
*HOW DID
I EVER
THINK...*

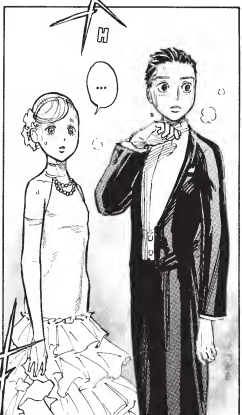
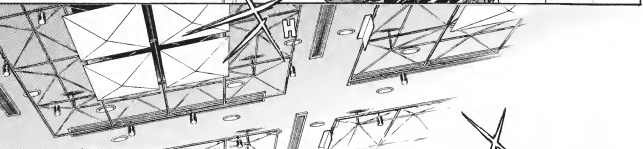
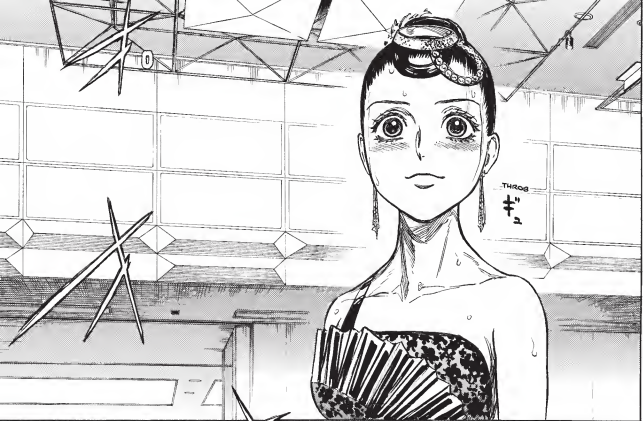




IT'S
RADIATING
OFF OF
HER.

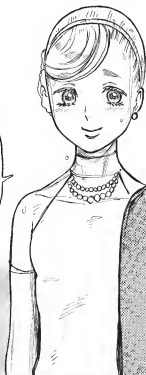




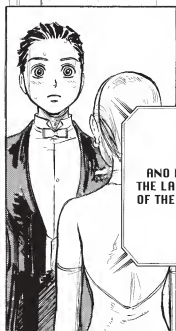




LET'S
JUST
DANCE
OUR
ABSOLUTE
BEST.



FOR THE
LAST STYLE,
AT LEAST... YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
BE MY *FRAME*
ANYMORE,
OKAY?



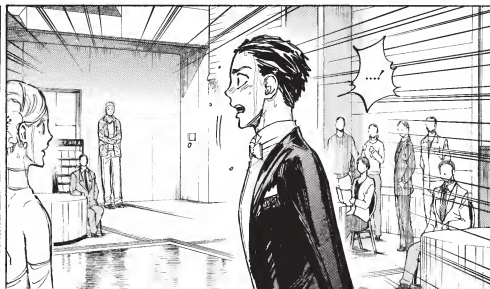
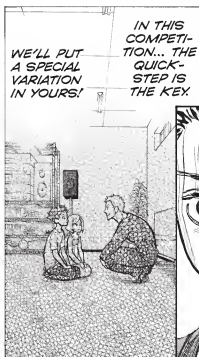
AND NOW...
THE LAST STYLE
OF THE FINALS:



ざわ CHATTER

ざわ CHATTER





...BUT
I STILL
HAVE
ENERGY!
IT'S
TOTALLY
FINE!!

SO
MAYBE
I WORE
MY
BRAIN
OUT
DOING
THE
LEAD...

3-3

3-3

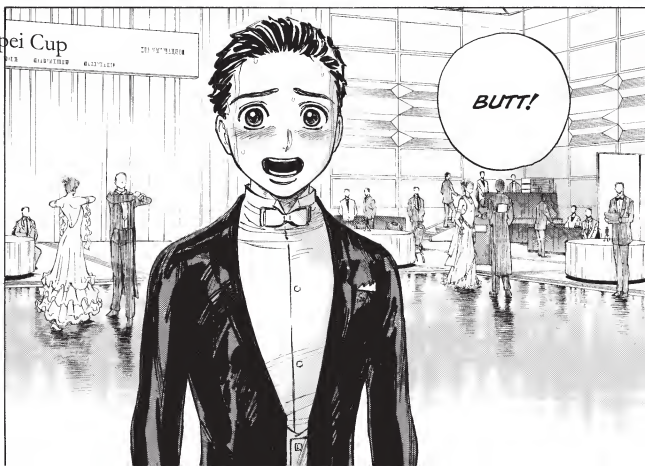
SO—

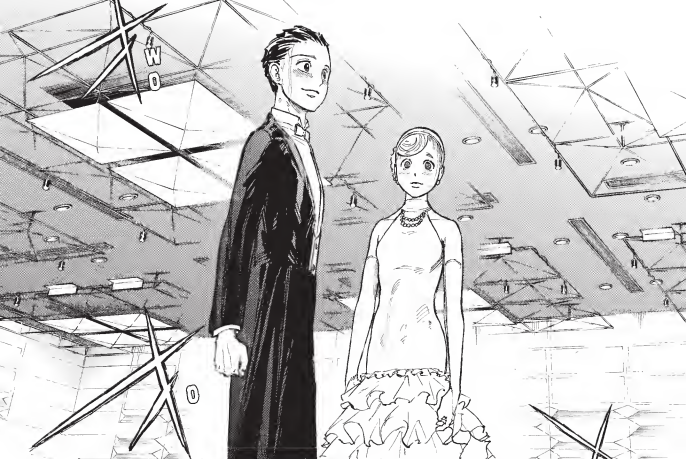
THIS TIME
WE'LL
DANCE
SENGOKU-
SAN'S
ROUTINE
THE
WAY HE
PLANNED
IT!



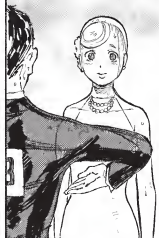


enpei Cup





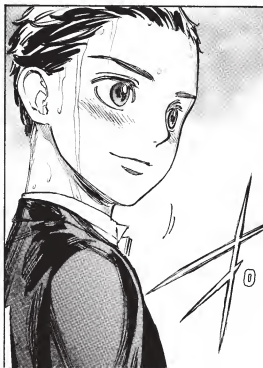
WE'LL
DANCE IT 100%...
WITH SENGOKU-
SAN'S ROUTINE.



!

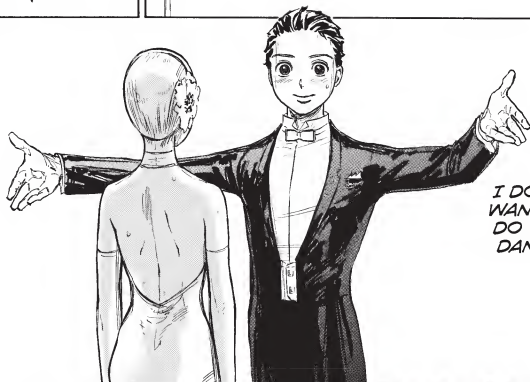
LAST...

...IS THE
QUICK-
STEP.

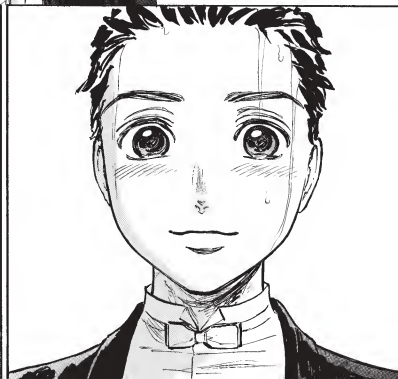
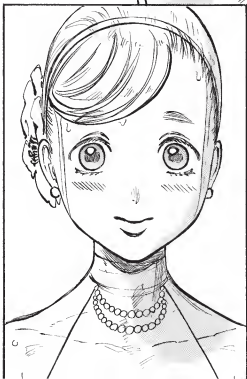


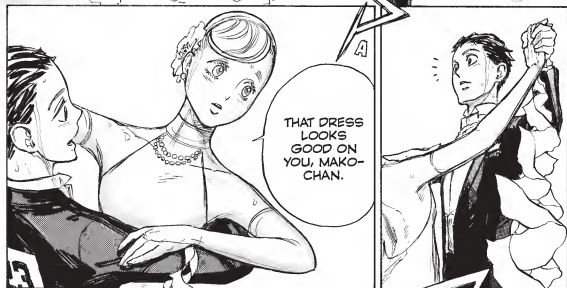


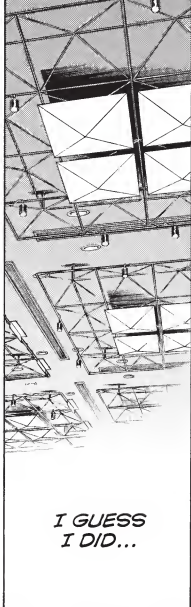
IT FEELS
LIKE A
WASTE.



I DON'T
WANT TO
DO THIS
DANCE!





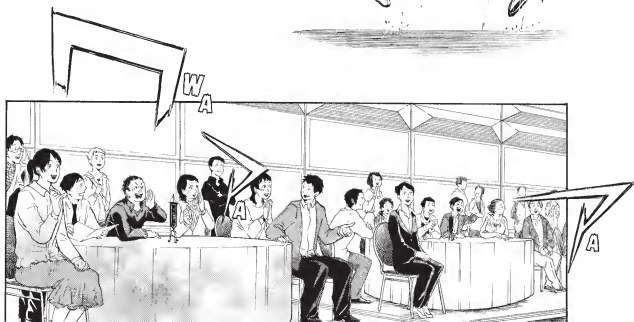


I GUESS
I DID...



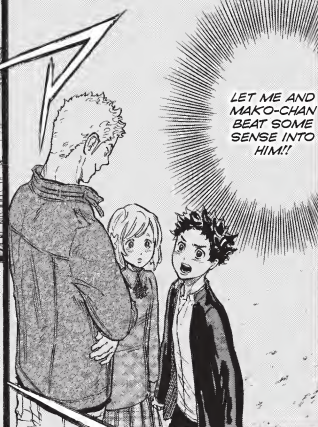
OH...

SHIZU

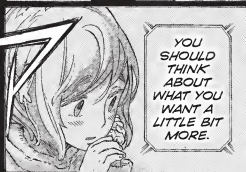




DO YOU
WANT TO
WIN OR
NOT?!



LET ME AND
MAKO-CHAN
BEAT SOME
SENSE INTO
HIM!!



YOU
SHOULD
THINK
ABOUT
WHAT YOU
WANT A
LITTLE BIT
MORE.



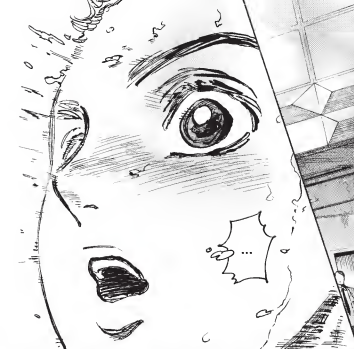
I WISH I'D
PRACTICED
MORE.



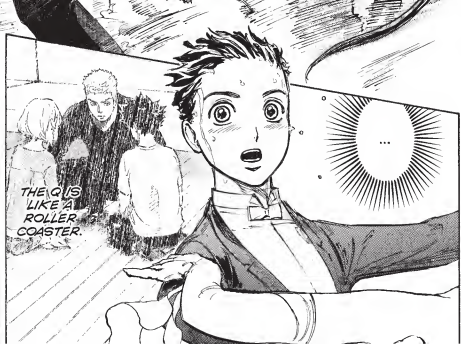
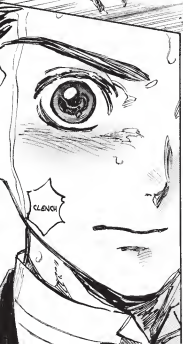
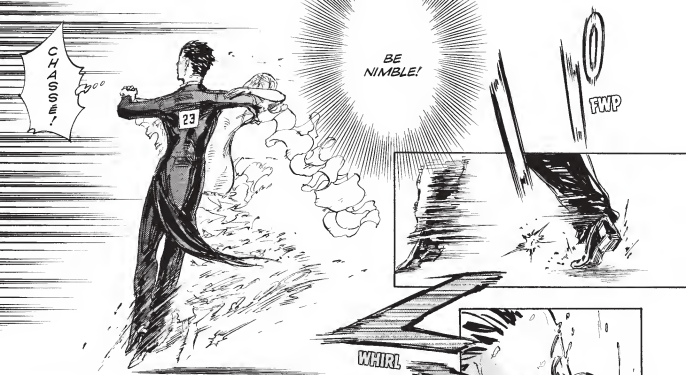
S
K
R
K

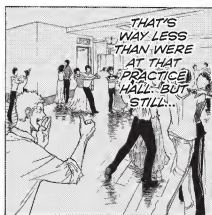


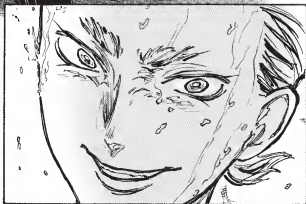
IT'S
BEEN
TWO
MONTHS
SINCE
THEN...

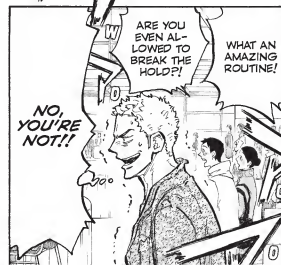
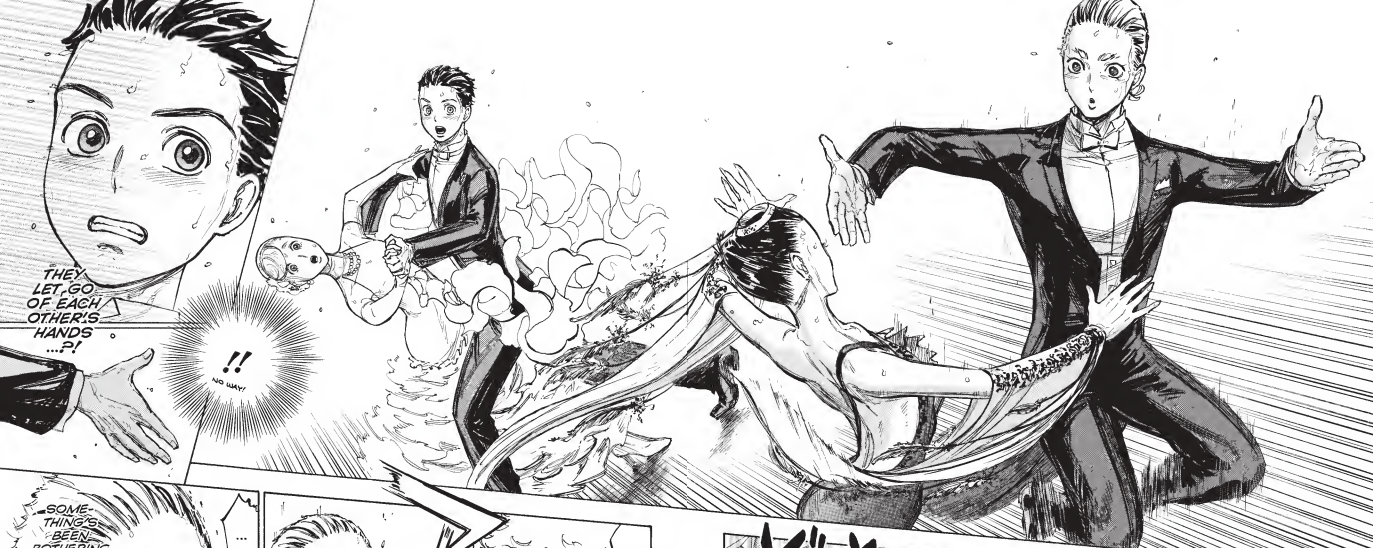










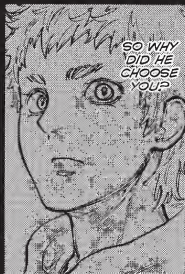




YOU CALL
THAT A
QUICK-
STEPP!

KLUTZ!

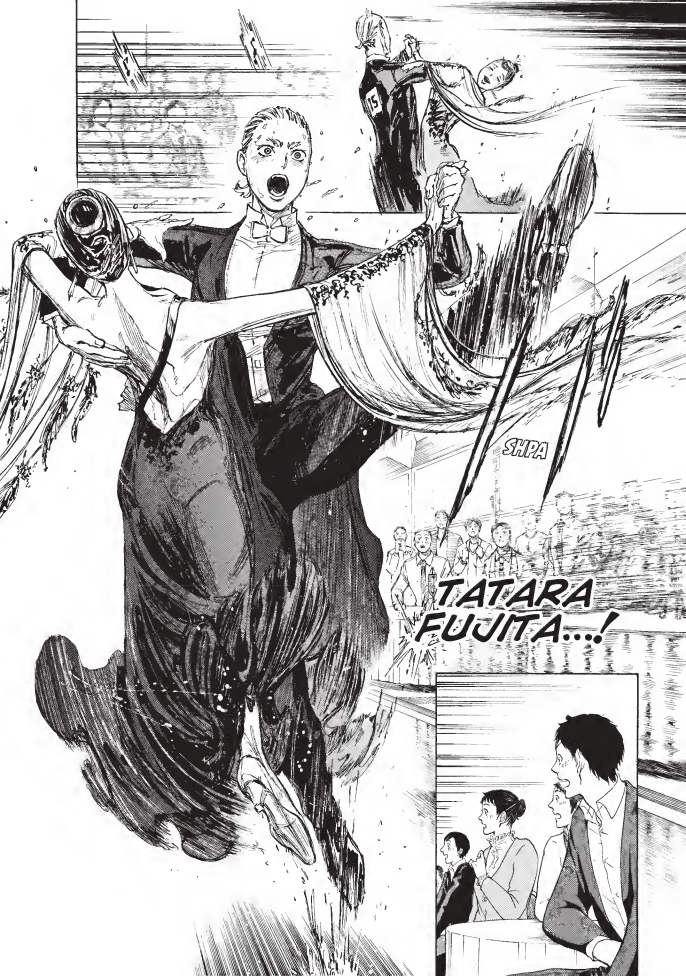
PICK IT
UP!



SO WHY
DID HE
CHOOSE
YOU?



THERE'S
ONLY TWO
MONTHS
BEFORE THE
TENPEI CUP!
YOU GET
THAT?!



SHPA

TATARA
FUJITA...!

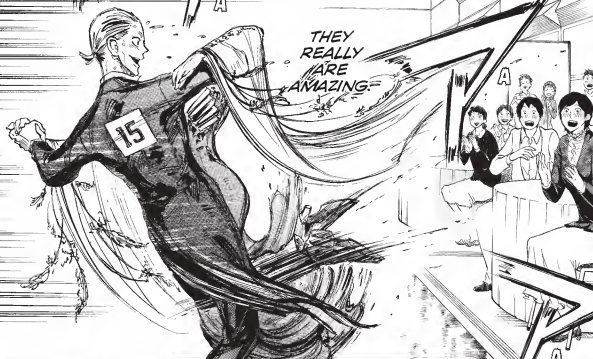


IN ONE
MOMENT, THEY
WON IT—



THEY
REALLY
ARE
AMAZING.

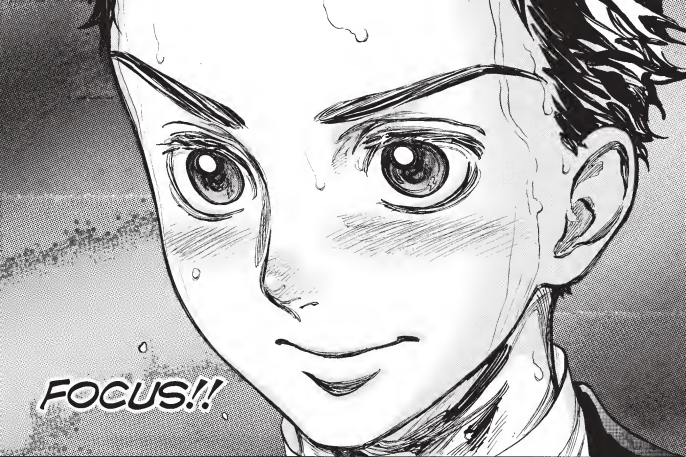
THESE
TWO...



DON'T
LOOK!

I KNOW
HOW IT
FEELS
TO WANT
APPLAUSE.





FOCUS!!

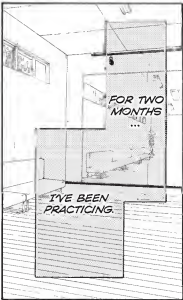


#¹/₂/₄
TWOP



HEARING
THAT...

SENGOKU-
SAN KNOWS
THAT IF
ANYONE CAN
DO IT, IT'S
YOU, TATARA-
SAN.

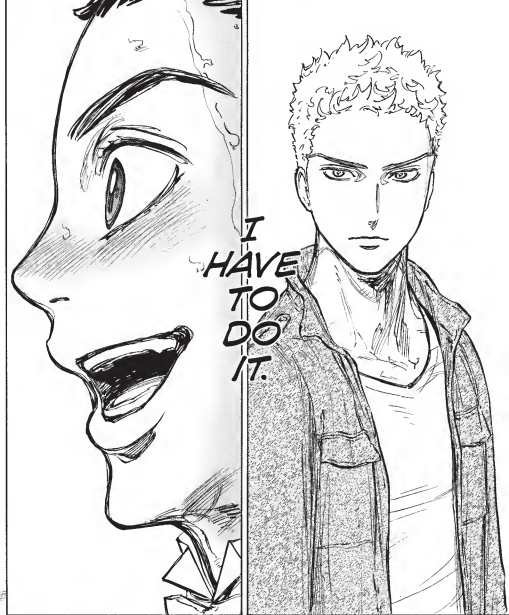


FOR TWO
MONTHS
...

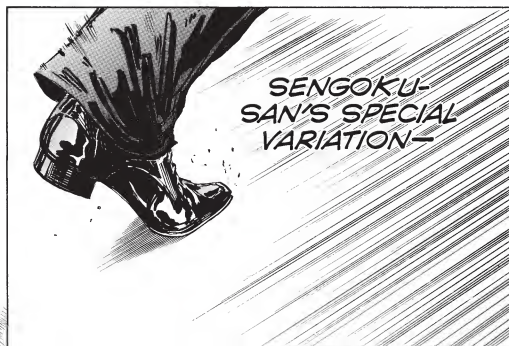
I'VE BEEN
PRACTICING.



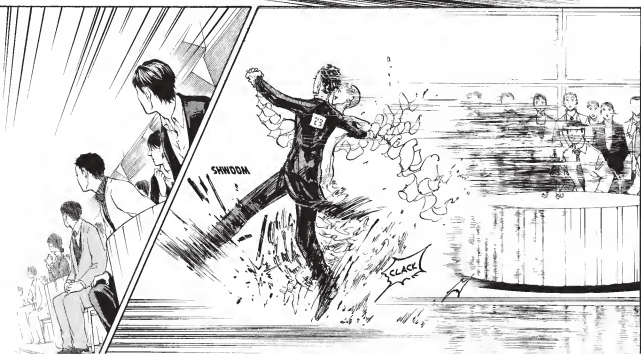
**I'M
GONNA
KICK
BUTT!!**



**I
HAVE
TO
DO
IT.**



**SENGOKU-
SAN'S SPECIAL
VARIATION**







THERE'S
THIS WEIRD
SUPERSTITION
ABOUT THE
TENPEI CUP.

?

...HEY, HAVE
YOU HEARD
THE STORY?

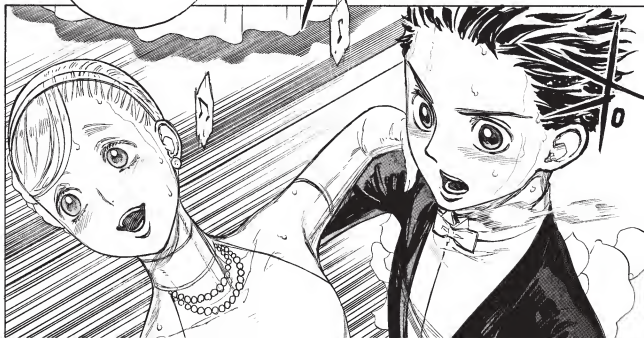
Tenpei Cup

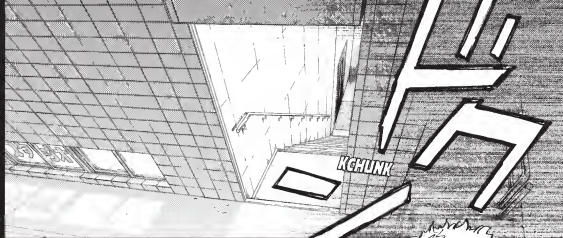




...WINDS
UP AS THE
CHAMPION.

APPARENTLY
EVERY YEAR,
WHOEVER
LIGHTS IT UP
IN THE FINAL
QUICKSTEP
ROUND...





EVEN I
PRACTICE
ON MY OWN
SOMETIMES.

YOU CAN
DO SHADOW
DANCES ON
YOUR OWN,
AT LEAST!



SAY
WHAT?



...

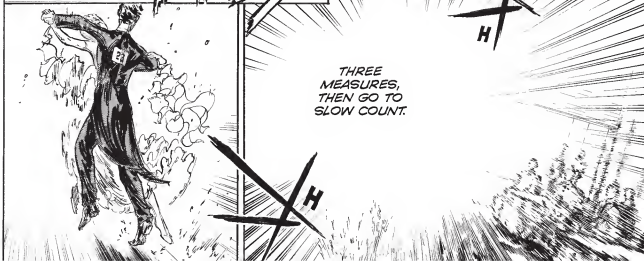
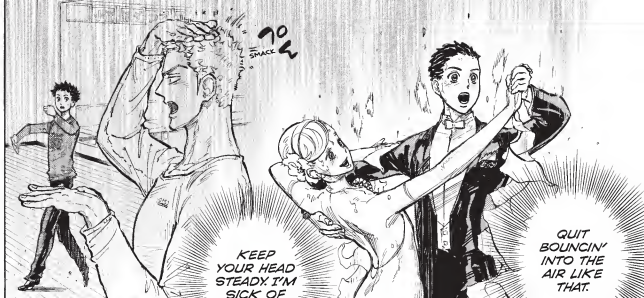


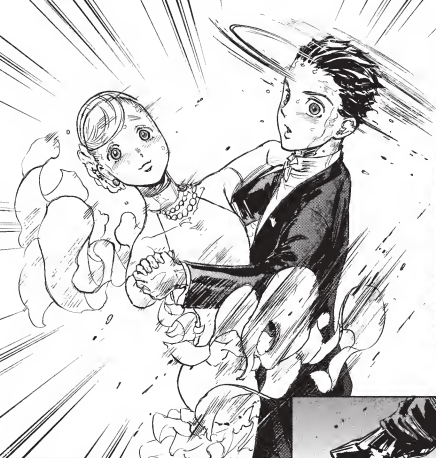
CREE

#1



GAH, YOU'RE
HOPELESS!





CENTER
OF
GRAVITY
OVER THE
RIGHT
LEG...

...AND
SLIDE
RIGHT
INTO IT!





DRAW
ONTO
THE
PIVOT
LEG,
AND...

BOTH LEGS
OPEN AS
WIDE AS
POSSIBLE...

SLIDING...!

SH

SH
TWINGE

WHSSH

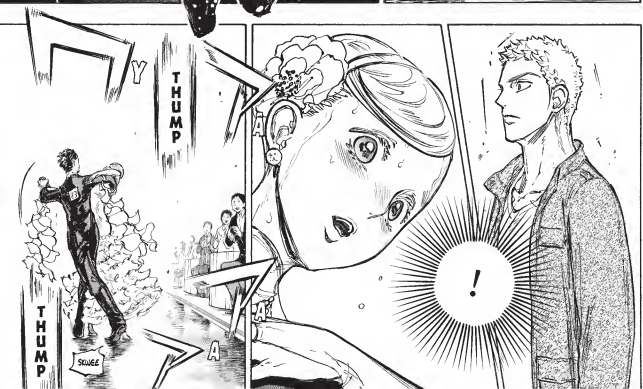
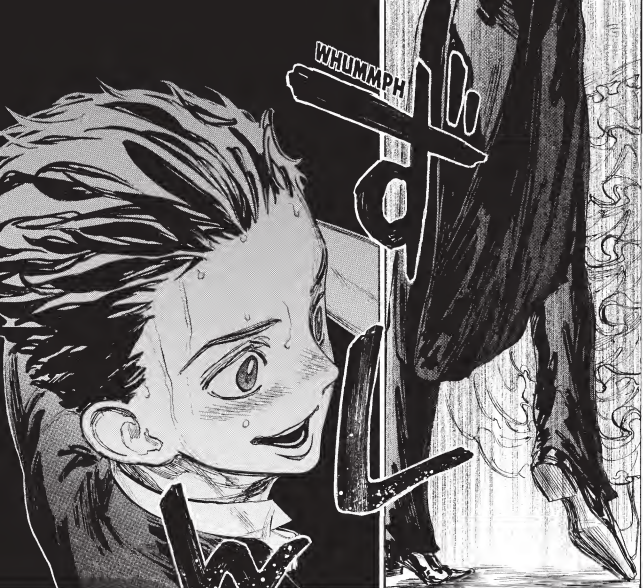
SH

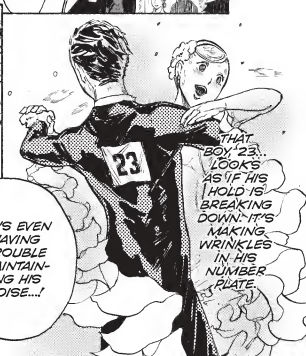
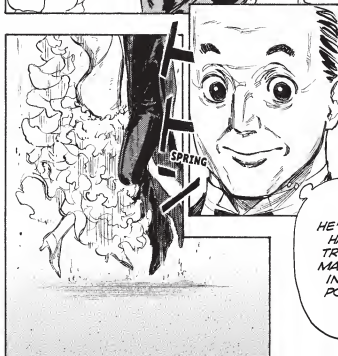
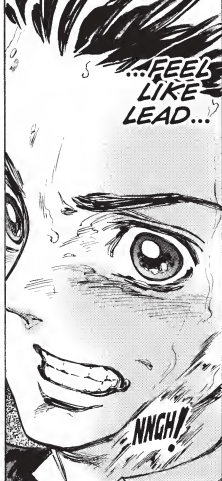
SH

H

SKTODD





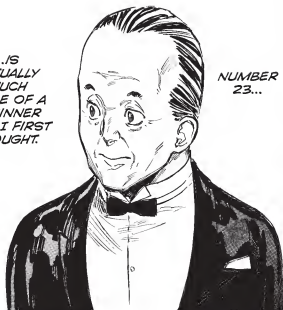


HE'S EVEN
HAVING
TROUBLE
MAINTAIN-
ING HIS
POISE...!

THAT
BOY '23...
LOOKS
AS IF HIS
HOLD IS
BREAKING
DOWN! IT'S
MAKING
WRINKLES
IN HIS
NUMBER
PLATE.

...IS
ACTUALLY
MUCH
MORE OF A
BEGINNER
THAN I FIRST
THOUGHT.

NUMBER
23...



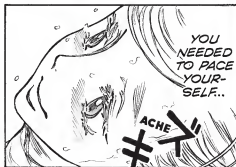
I...
I'M
FINE!

ARE YOU
FEELING
STRONG
ENOUGH
TO KEEP
GOING?



YOU
NEEDED
TO PACE
YOUR-
SELF...

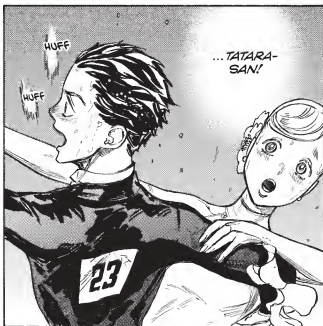
ACHE



HUFF

HUFF

...TATARA-
SAN!



...AND YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
TIME TO
THINK ABOUT
IT, DID YOU?



YOU
JUST
CAME
OUT
HERE...

...AND
GAVE
YOUR
ALL TO
EVERY
DANCE.

"EVERY
SINGLE
SONG IS
YOUR LAST
DANCE AS
A COUPLE."

I SUPPOSE
IT'S
MEANT TO
DRAW THE
JUDGES'
ATTENTION,
BUT IT'S
JUST
MAKING
A BAD
IMPRESSION
INSTEAD.

SUCH A
FLASHY
VARIATION,
BUT
TOTALLY
BEYOND
HIS SKILL
LEVEL.

...

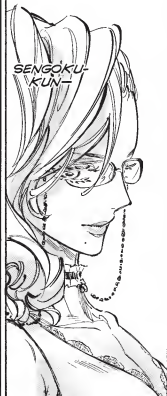
HIS STEPS
ARE
ABSOLUTELY
WRETCHED
NOW.



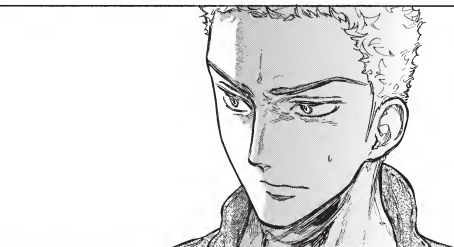
THIS DANCE
IS HOLLOW
AND CLUMSY.
IT'S SIMPLY
ATROCIOUS.



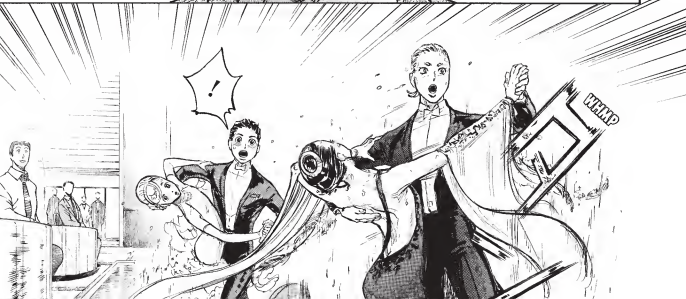
ARE YOU
TAKING
YOUR
STUDENT'S
EDUCATION
STEP BY
STEP...?



SENGOKU-
KUN—



YOUR
COACHING
LOSES
POINTS
WITH ME.





OH MAN! YER
ROUTINE'S
GOTCHA
ALL TURNED
AROUND!

GAJU-
KUN...
WHY ARE YOU
TALKING TO
THEM?



GO
15!!

NUM-
BER
15!!



HOW DID A
SLOPPY TEAM
LIKE THAT MAKE
IT INTO THE
FINALS WHEN WE
DIDN'T?!

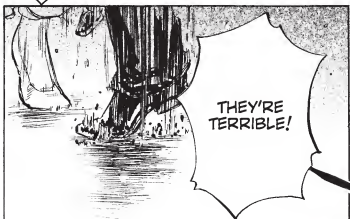
BRUTAL!

...MAN,
BUT
LOOK AT
NUMBER
23...
YOU KIDDEN'
ME...



NO ONE
ELSE
COMES
CLOSE!

THE AKAGI
TEAM IS ON
A WHOLE
OTHER
LEVEL!



THEY'RE
TERRIBLE!



THEY
KEEP
FORCIN'
THEM-
SELVES
BACK IN
WHERE I'M
LOOKING!

IF IT
UPSETS
YOU THAT
MUCH,
JUST
DON'T
WATCH
THEM.



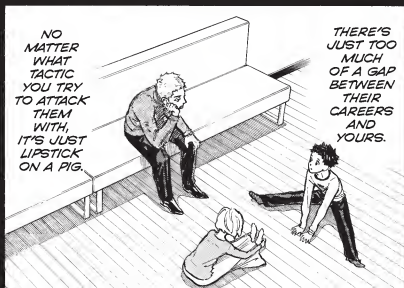
HEY, WHO
SAID YOU
COULD
STOPP!

AWWW, YOUR
LEG'S
CRAMPING
UP?

YOU BEEN
PRACTICING
YOUR FUN-
DAMENTALS
LIKE YER
SUPPOSED
TOP!

THERE IS NO
TOLERANCE
FOR EVEN THE
SLIGHTEST
FLAW.

DANCE IS
A COM-
PETITIVE
ART. THE
PIECE IS
JUDGED
ON THE
BEAUTY
OF ITS
CREATION.



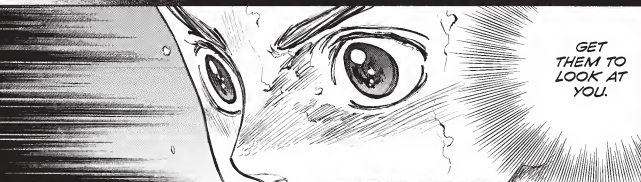


SO THE
FIRST
THING YOU
HAVE TO
DO IS—
EVEN JUST
FOR ONE
SECOND—

I ALWAYS
THINK, "IF
THEY IGNORE
ME OUT ON
THE FLOOR,
IT'S OVER."



I FEEL LIKE,
SOMETHING
THAT'S BUILT
INTO THESE
COMPETITIONS
WITH
COMPARATIVE
SCORING IS,
THAT GETTING
OVERSHADOWED
IS DEATH...

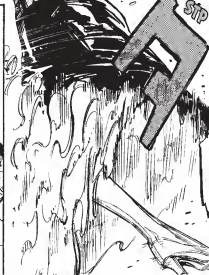
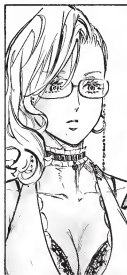


GET
THEM TO
LOOK AT
YOU.

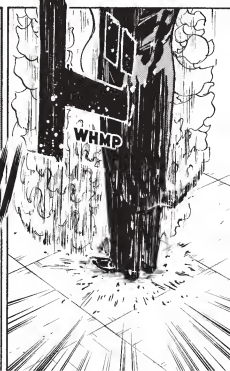


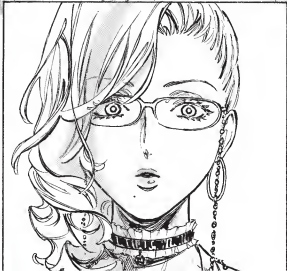


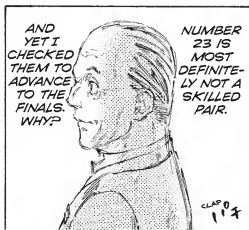
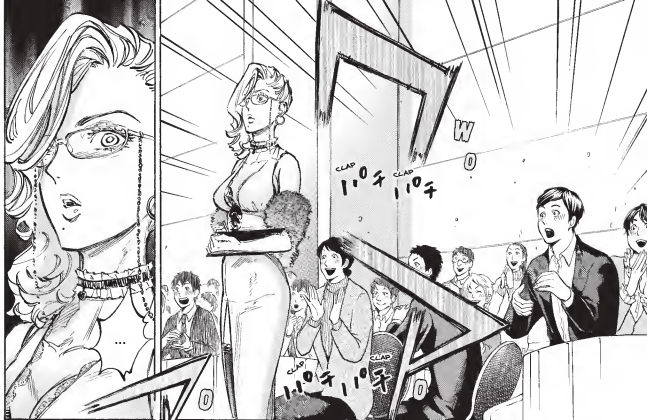
THAT'S
WHAT THAT
VARIATION
IS FOR.











WHY DID THEY START APPLAUDING ...?





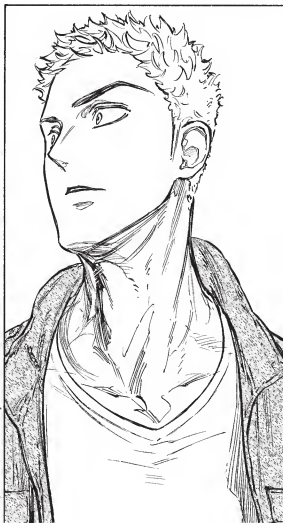
*THIS IS AN
INCREDIBLE
ROUTINE!*

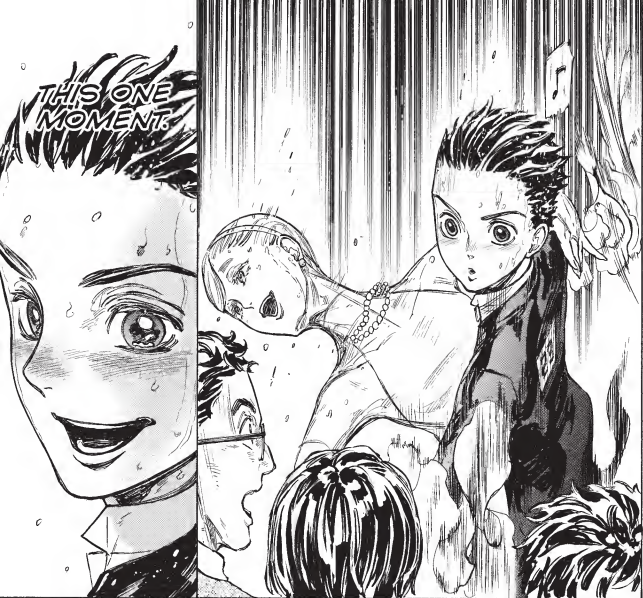


AH... I
REMEMBER
NOW.



THIS IS
WHAT I
WANTED
TO SEE.





...MOMEN-
TARY APPEAL.

AN
EPHEMERAL
...



THE
ELATION
THEY
CHANNEL
STRAIGHT
TO THE
PEOPLE
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
THEM.

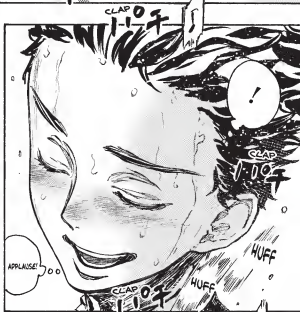
IT MIS-
LEADS.



IT STIRS
UP THIS
REACTION.

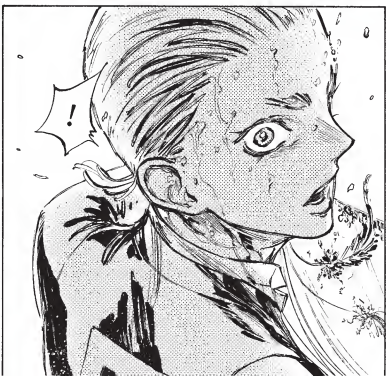


...HE'S
DANCING
PURELY
BY
EMOTION.



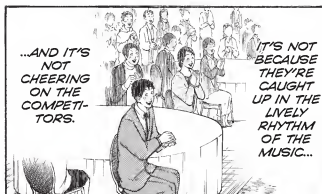
IN
THIS
MO-
MENT
...







...IS WHEN
PEOPLE
START
CLAPPING
ALONG
WITH THE
QUICKSTEP.

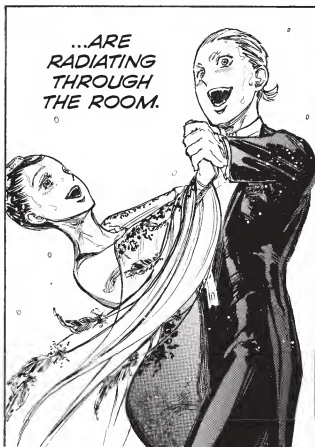


...AND IT'S
NOT
CHEERING
ON THE
COMPETI-
TORS.

IT'S NOT
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
CAUGHT
UP IN THE
LIVELY
RHYTHM
OF THE
MUSIC...



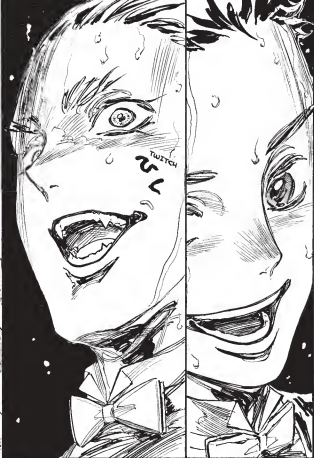
CLAP



...ARE
RADIATING
THROUGH
THE ROOM.

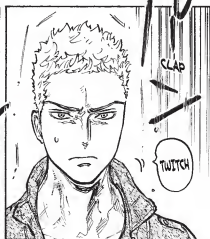


'IT'S BECAUSE
THE DANCERS'
EMOTIONS...

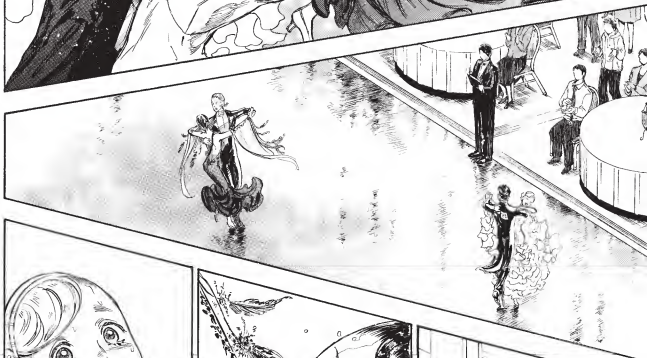




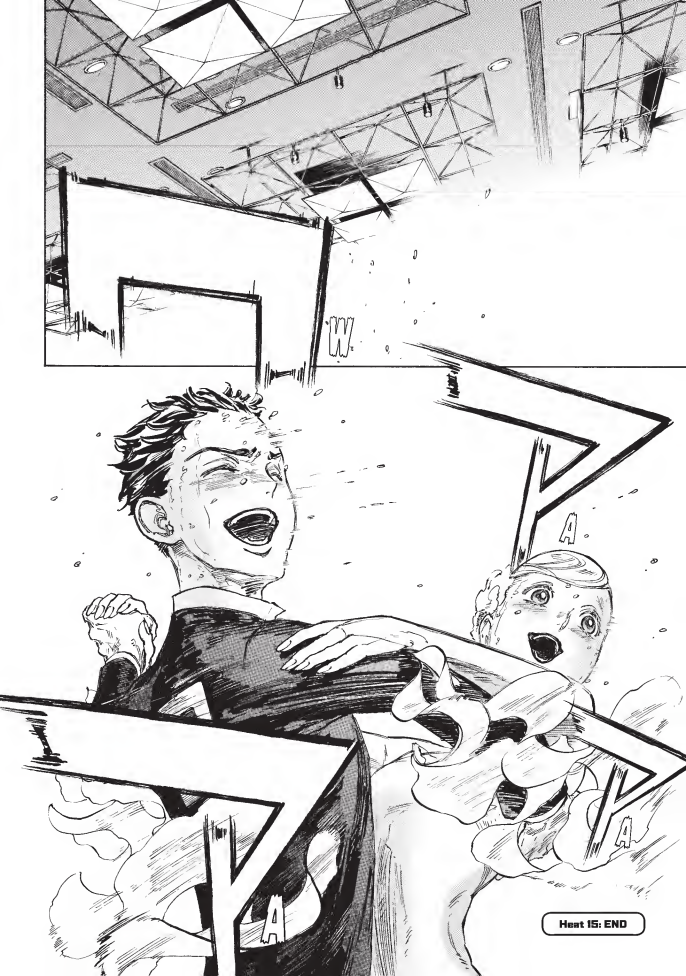
THAT!!











Heat 15: END

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

Special Thanks!

For help with waltz variations

Mr. Masayuki Ishihara

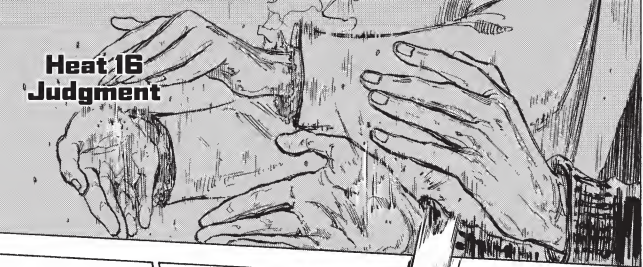
Ms. Saori Ito

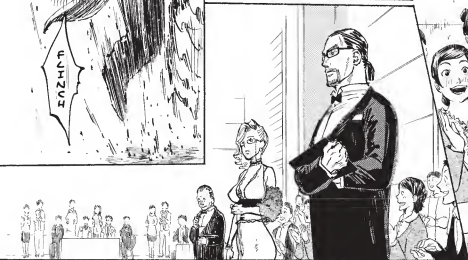
*For help with tango
& slow foxtrot variations*

Mr. Yoshihiro Miwa

Ms. Tomoko Miwa

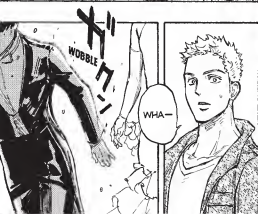
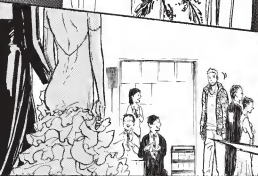
Heat 16
Judgment







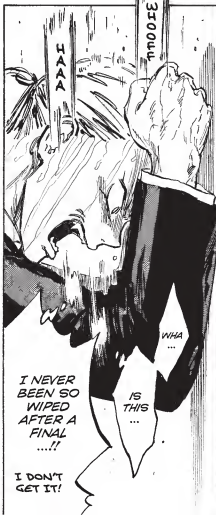
THE
COMPETITION
CAME TO
AN END.

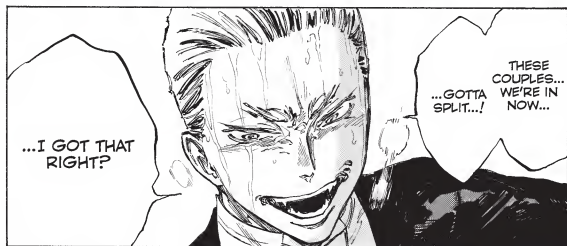


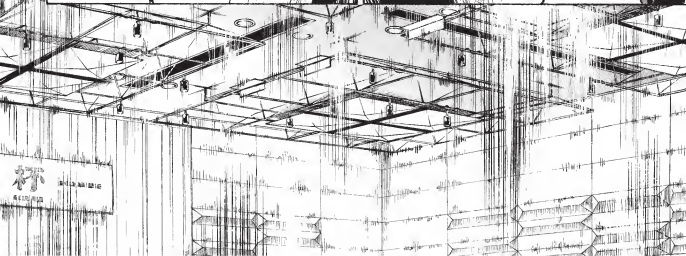
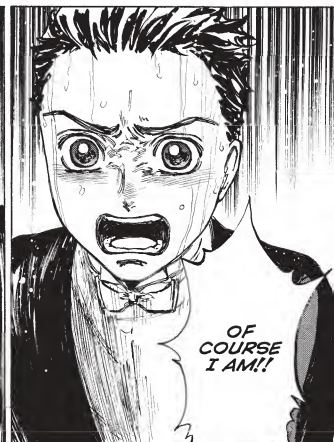
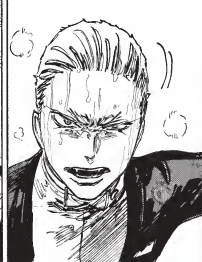
WE WILL
TABULATE THE
EXTRA POINTS
FROM THE FINAL
ROUND. WE
APPRECIATE YOUR
PATIENCE AS
WE PREPARE TO
ANNOUNCE THE
RESULTS.

CLAP
1.1°
CLAP
1.0°
CLAP
1.0°











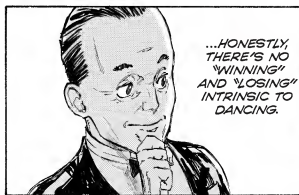
...THE
COUPLE WHO
EARNED
THE MOST
1ST PLACE
RANKINGS
WINS.

IN THIS
METHOD
OF
JUDGING
...

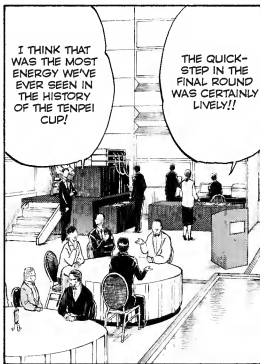
THE FINAL ROUND
DOES NOT USE THE
CHECKMARK SYSTEM
OF THE PRELIMINARY
ROUNDS, BUT INSTEAD
TALLIES POINTS
USING THE "SKATING
SYSTEM," IN WHICH
EACH JUDGE RANKS
ALL THE TEAMS IN
EACH STYLE.



WHICH
COUPLE DID
YOU PUT IN
1ST, MARISA-
SENSEI?

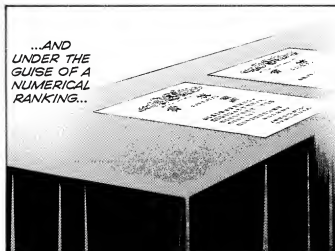


...HONESTLY,
THERE'S NO
"WINNING"
AND "LOSING"
INTRINSIC TO
DANCING.



I THINK THAT
WAS THE MOST
ENERGY WE'VE
EVER SEEN IN
THE HISTORY
OF THE TENPEI
CUP!

THE QUICK-
STEP IN THE
FINAL ROUND
WAS CERTAINLY
LIVELY!!



...AND
UNDER THE
GUISE OF A
NUMERICAL
RANKING...

...
JUDGES
WILL
ASSIGN
SCORES
...



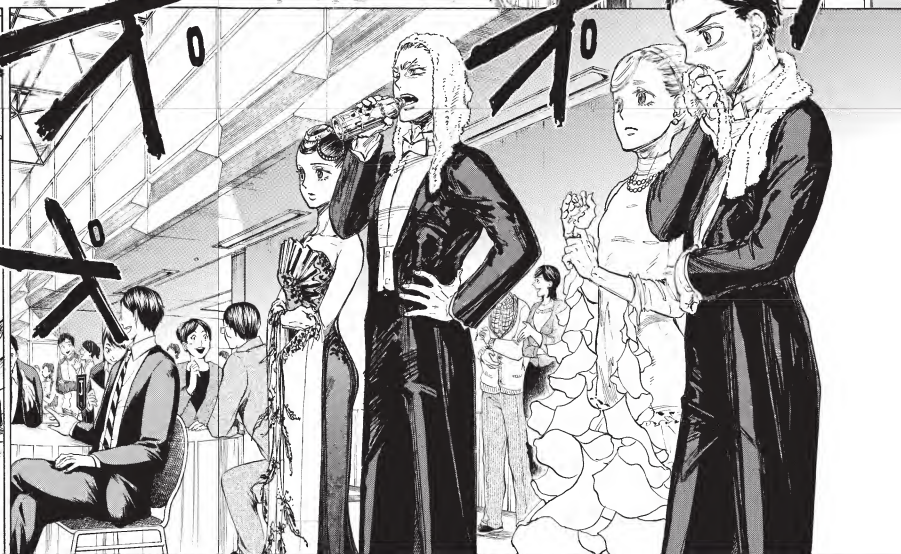
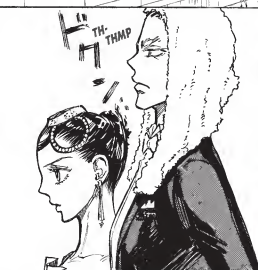
BUT GIVEN
THAT
THIS IS A
CONTEST
...

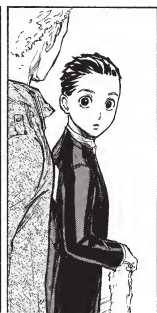
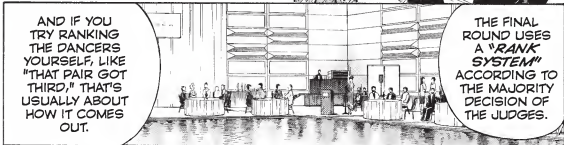
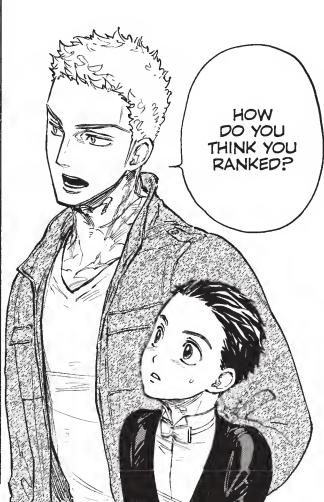
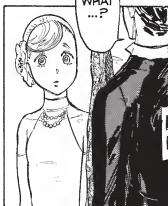
WE WILL NOW
ANNOUNCE
THE RESULTS
OF THE TENPEI
CUP AND HOLD
THE AWARDS
CEREMONY.

...TO
JUDGE
DANCE.

WE
PRESUME
...

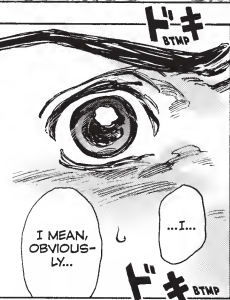
WE
APPRECIATE
YOUR
PATIENCE
DURING THE
LONG WAIT.







I WILL NOW
ANNOUNCE THE
RANKINGS.



ドキ
BTMP

I MEAN,
OBVIOUS-
LY...

...I....

ドキ
BTMP

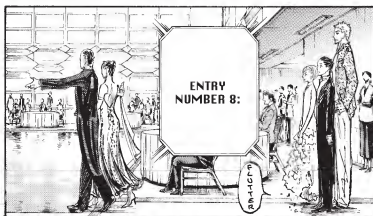


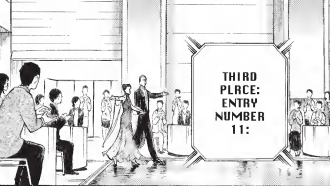
FIRST
PLACE:



ドキ
THMP...







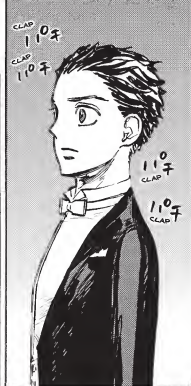
THIRD
PLACE:
ENTRY
NUMBER
11:



SENGOKU-
SAN.



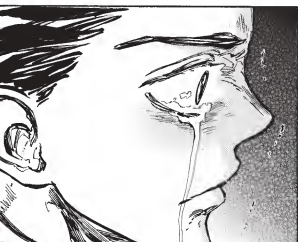
HOW
DO YOU
THINK YOU
RANKED?



110
CLAP

110
CLAP

I WAS THINKING IT DURING THE WHOLE COMPETITION—



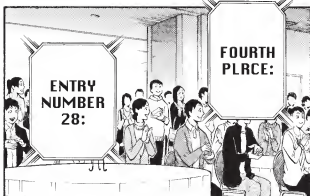
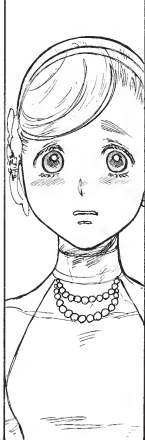
"I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HOW
TERRIBLY
I'M
DOING!"



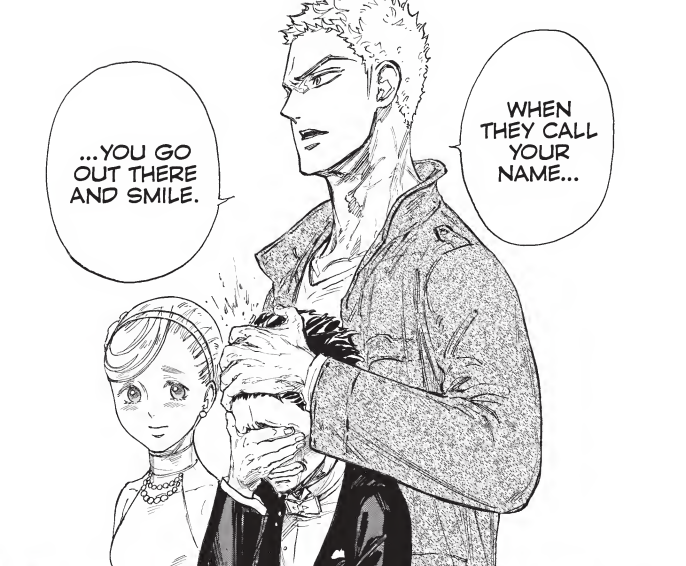
CLAP 110x I WAS SO
HAPPY TO
GET EVEN
A LITTLE
BIT OF
APPLAUSE.

AND
YET...





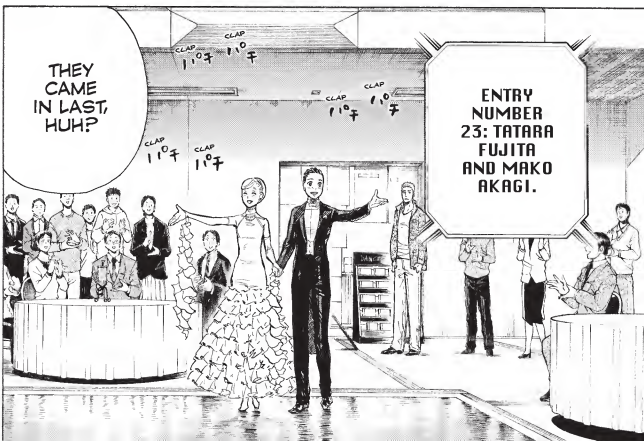
"MAYBE
THERE'S
A TINY
CHANCE
WE CAN
WIN
THIS"...!

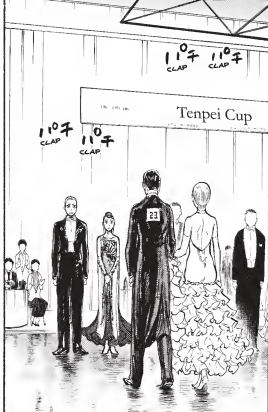
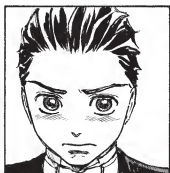


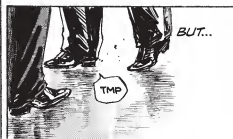
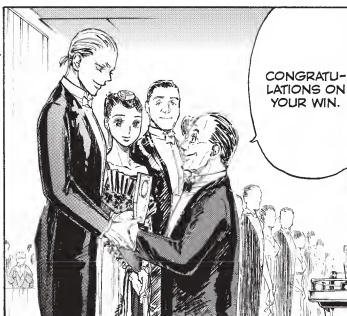
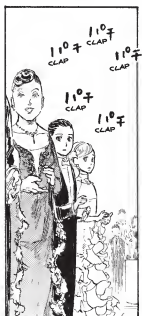
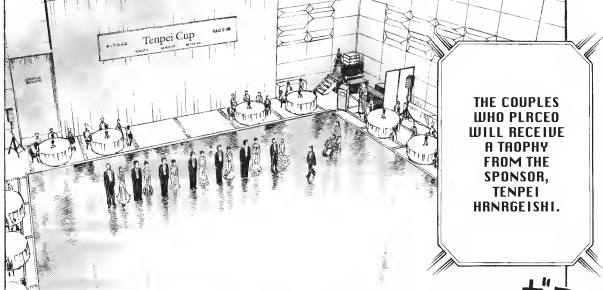
...YOU GO
OUT THERE
AND SMILE.

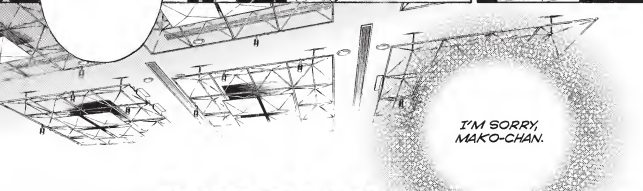
WHEN
THEY CALL
YOUR
NAME...

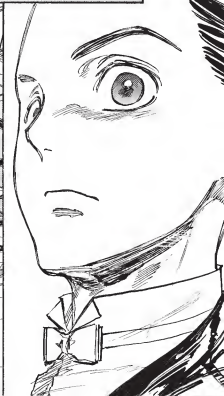
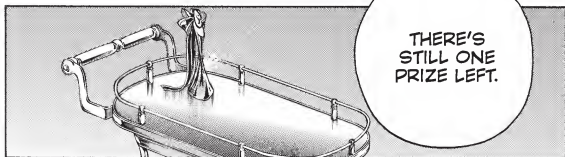
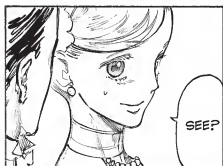














...IS AN
INDIVIDUAL
AWARD
JUST
FOR THE
WOMAN, I
GUESS...

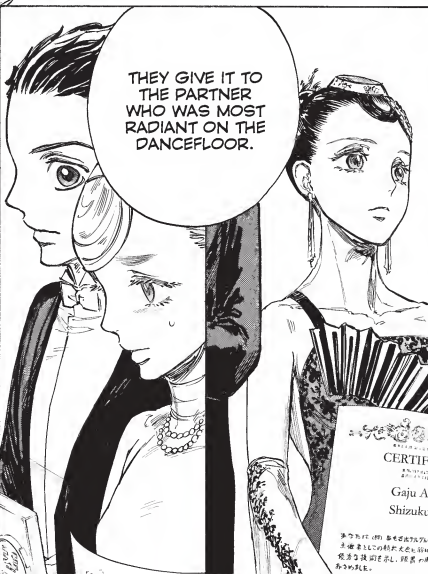
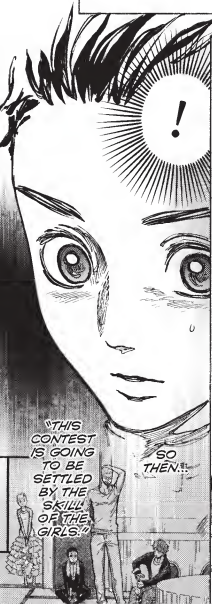
THE
"QUEEN OF
THE BALL-
ROOM"
PRIZE...

YEAH, THE
COUPLES
WERE
SCORED BY
THE TOTAL
OF BOTH
DANCERS'
SCORES.



THEY
DON'T
DO THIS
IN THE
REGULAR
COMPE-
TITIONS...

IS THAT
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
COUPLES
PRIZES?



THEY GIVE IT TO
THE PARTNER
WHO WAS MOST
RADIANT ON THE
DANCEFLOOR.

"THIS
CONTEST
IS GOING
TO BE
SETTLED
BY THE
SKILL
OF THE
GIRLS!"

SO
THEN!!

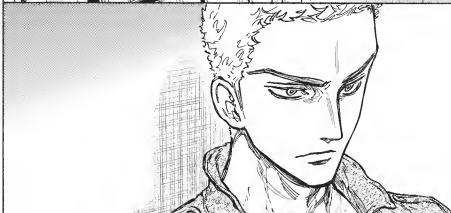
CERTIFICATE

Gaju Akagi
Shizuku Han

第1回 (19) 舞会大会
主催者としての純太先生は、
観客を招待すると、観客の
ための舞会。



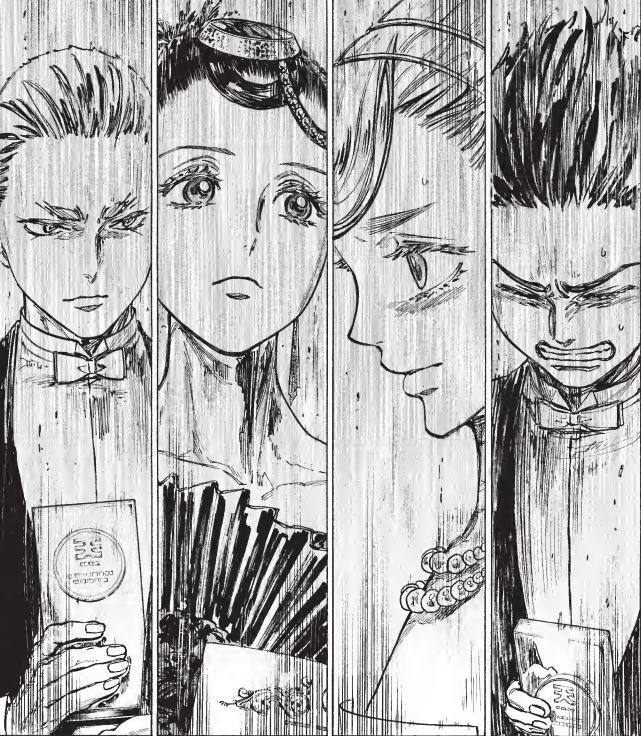
*IF THEY
TAKE
THIS
PRIZE...*



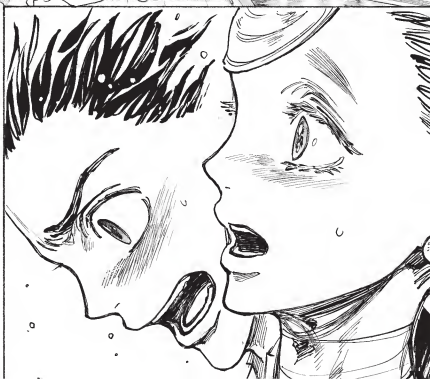
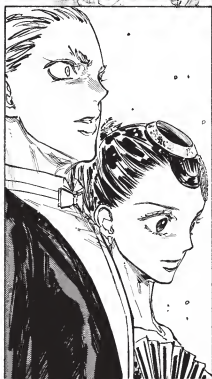
**...THAT
THE QUEEN
OF THE
BALLROOM
PRIZE...**

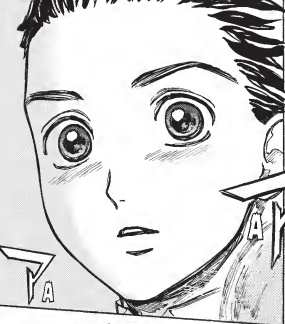
**WE ARE
PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE...**





...GOES
TO ENTRY
NUMBER...





I MEAN,
23 WAS
GOOD
TOO!



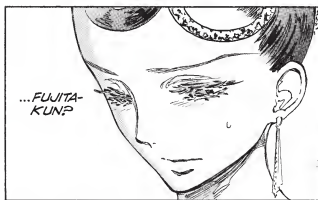
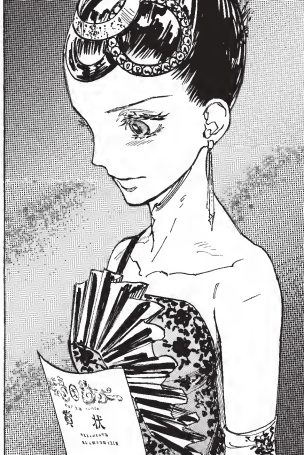
WHAP?
THEY'RE
NOT
GIVING IT
TO 15?



CONGRATU-
LATIONS.



YOU WERE
THE QUEEN
OF THE
BALLROOM.





3.3,
WHIP

UH-
UH!
YOU'RE
AMAZING,
MAKO-
CHAN!



YOU'RE
AMAZING,
TATARA-
SAN!



BLINK

YOUR LEAD
GOT ME
THIS PRIZE,
TATARA-SAN!



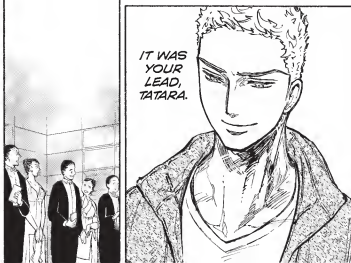
EVERY
LAST ONE
OF THEM
WANTS TO
BE THE
BEST.

LOOK
AT ME.

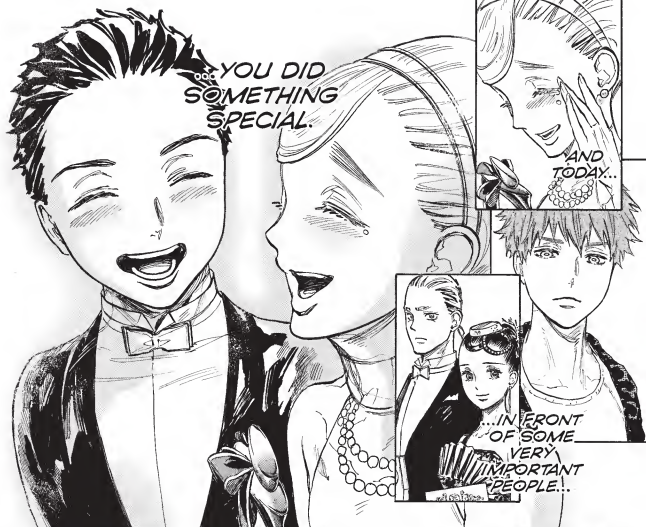
DANCERS ARE
CREATURES
THAT LIVE FOR
ATTENTION.



HAHAHA,
LOOK AT
THOSE
TWO!

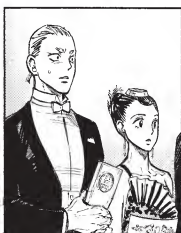


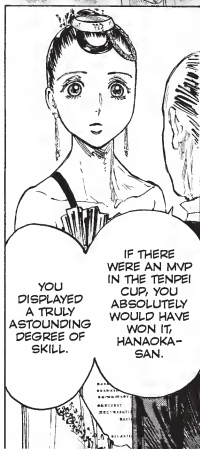
IT WAS
YOUR
LEAD,
TATARA.





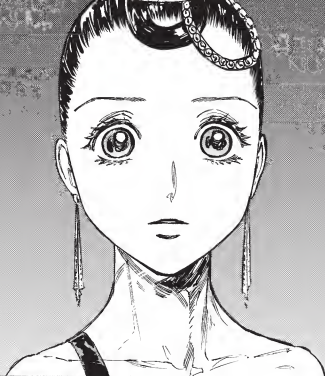
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH,
SIR!!





IF THERE WERE AN MVP IN THE TENPEI CUP, YOU ABSOLUTELY WOULD HAVE WON IT, HANAOKA-SAN.



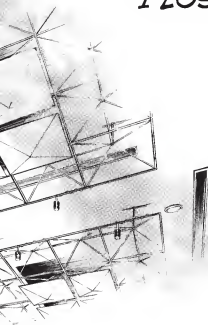


AT TIMES, YOU
OVERWHELMED
YOUR LEAD.

I LOST...

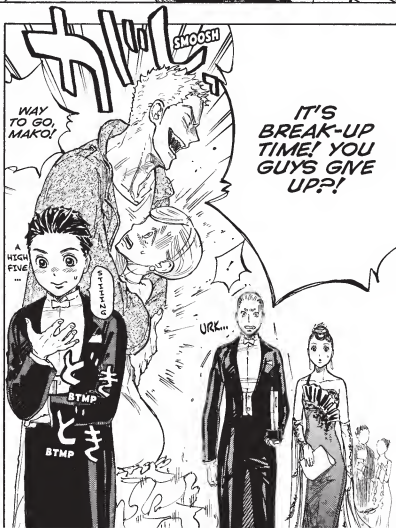
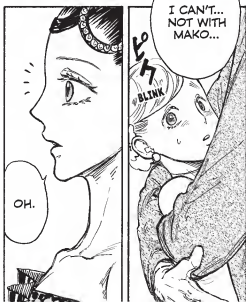
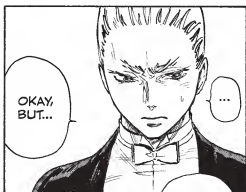
YOU'RE STILL
MATURING.

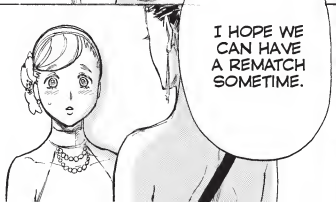
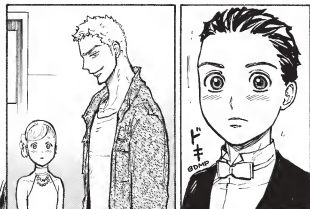
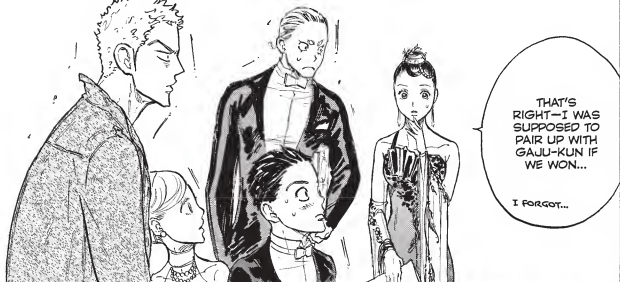
SMILE
にこ

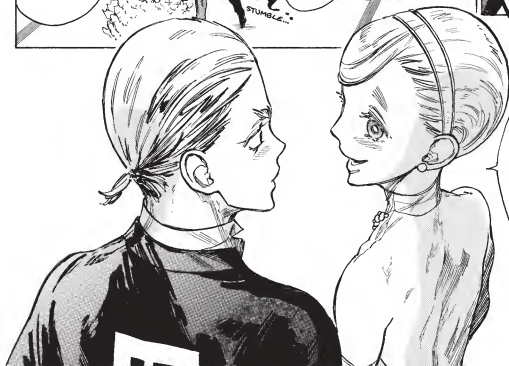
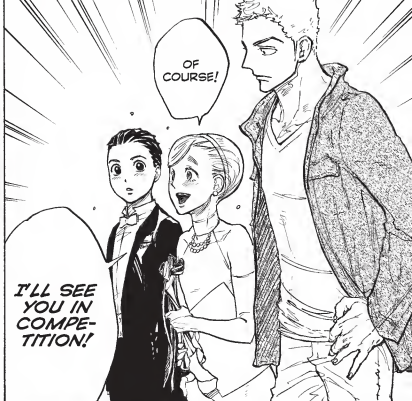
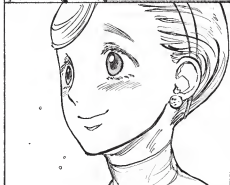


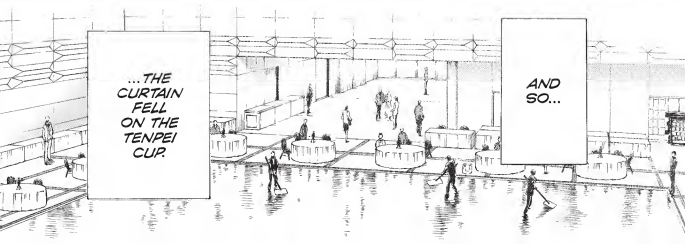
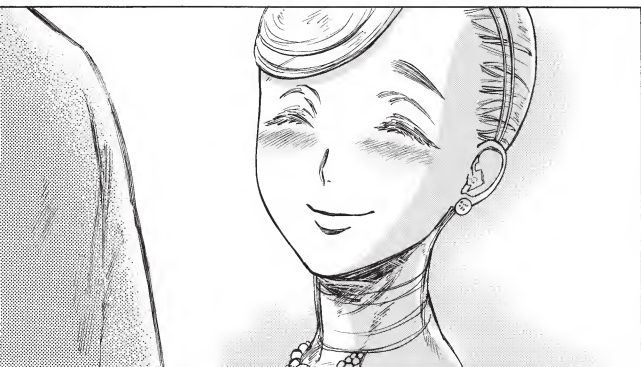
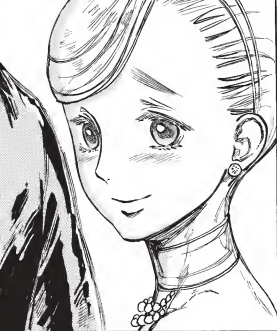
...SO
THAT'S
IT.





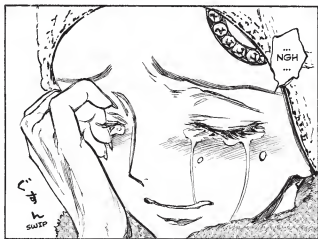






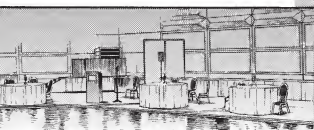
...THE
CURTAIN
FELL
ON THE
TENPEI
CUP.

AND
SO...

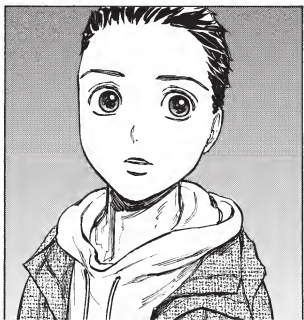


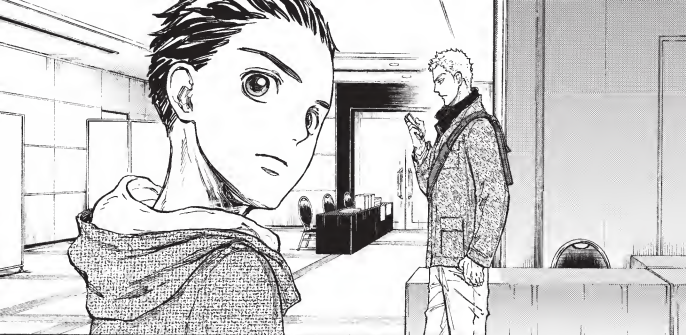


HEY! THE
TRAINS HAVE
STOPPED
RUNNING BY
NOW.

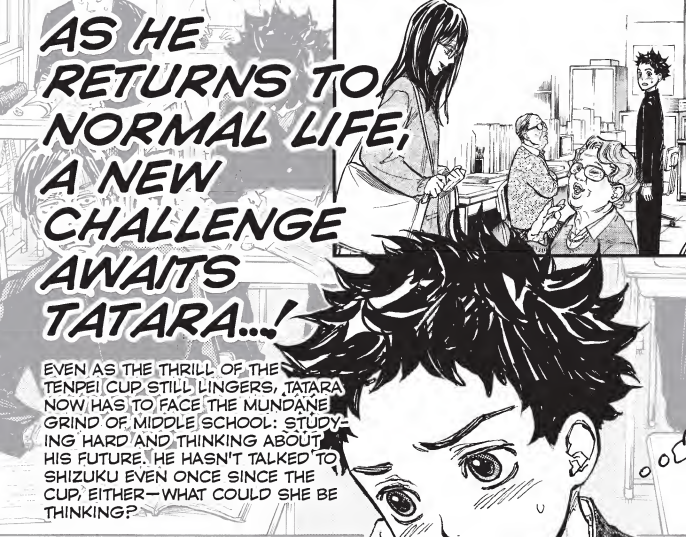


YOU NEED
TO GET ON
A STAGE
SOON.





WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM



**AS HE
RETURNS TO
NORMAL LIFE,
A NEW
CHALLENGE
AWAITS
TATARA...**

EVEN AS THE THRILL OF THE TENPEI CUP STILL LINGERS, TATARA NOW HAS TO FACE THE MUNDANE GRIND OF MIDDLE SCHOOL: STUDYING HARD AND THINKING ABOUT HIS FUTURE. HE HASN'T TALKED TO SHIZUKU EVEN ONCE SINCE THE CUP, EITHER—WHAT COULD SHE BE THINKING?



NOW THAT HE KNOWS
HE WANTS TO BE A
GREAT DANCER,
TATARA'S GOT A NEW
PROBLEM...

...HOW?



**WELCOME
TO THE
BALLROOM**

Volume 5 coming soon!

Welcome to the Ballroom 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682336496

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Karen McGillicuddy
Lettering: Brndn Blakeslee
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